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Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples on its work during 2002**

Rapporteur: Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Chapters I and II***

Contents

Chapter		*Paragraphs*	*Page*
	Letter of transmittal		4
I.	Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee	1–100	5
	A. Establishment of the Special Committee	1–14	5
	B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2002 and election of officers	15–16	9
	C. Organization of work	17–21	9
	D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies	22–27	9
	E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable	28–37	11

* A/57/50/Rev.1.

** The document was submitted late to the conference services owing to the fact that the substantive session of the Special Committee ended on 26 June and the Secretariat and the Rapporteur needed a reasonable period of time to finalize the report.

*** The present document contains chapters I and II of the Special Committee's report to the General Assembly. Chapters III-XII of the report will be issued separately in document A/57/23 (Part II). Recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly will be issued separately in document A/57/23 (Part III). The complete report will be issued as *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/57/23).

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F.	Consideration of other matters	38–59	13
	1. Matters relating to the small Territories	38–40	13
	2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization	41–42	14
	3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters	43–44	14
	4. Pattern of conferences	45–47	14
	5. Control and limitation of documentation	48	15
	6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee	49–53	15
	7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee	54	15
	8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights	55	16
	9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations	56	16
	10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly	57–58	16
	11. Other questions	59	16
G.	Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations	60–70	16
	1. Economic and Social Council	60	16
	2. Commission on Human Rights	61–62	16
	3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	63	17
	4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations	64–65	17
	5. Organization of African Unity	66	17
	6. Caribbean Community	67	17
	7. Pacific Islands Forum	68	17
	8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries	69	17
	9. Non-governmental organizations	70	17
H.	Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes	71–73	18
	1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination	71–72	18
	2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	73	18
I.	Review of work	74–81	18
J.	Future work	82–98	19

	K. Conclusion of the 2002 session	99–100	22
	Annex List of documents of the Special Committee, 2002		23
II.	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism		27
	Annex Pacific Regional Seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002		28
III.	Dissemination of information on decolonization		
IV.	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories		
V.	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories		
VI.	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their Administration		
VII.	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations		A/56/23 (Part II)
VIII.	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations		
IX.	Gibraltar, New Caledonia and Western Sahara		
X.	American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands		
XI.	Tokelau		
XII.	Falkland Islands (Malvinas)		
	Recommendations		A/56/23 (Part III)

Letter of transmittal

9 September 2002

Sir,

I have the honour to transmit herewith to the General Assembly the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in accordance with General Assembly resolution 56/74 of 10 December 2001. The report covers the work of the Special Committee during 2002.

(*Signed*) Earl Stephen **Huntley**
Chairman of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

His Excellency Mr. Kofi **Annan**
Secretary-General of the United Nations
New York

Chapter I
Establishment, organization and activities of the Special Committee

A. Establishment of the Special Committee

1. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples was established by the General Assembly pursuant to its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961. The Special Committee was requested to examine the application of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, and to make suggestions and recommendations on the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration.

2. At its seventeenth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[1] the General Assembly adopted resolution 1810 (XVII) of 17 December 1962, by which it enlarged the Special Committee with the addition of seven new members. It invited the Special Committee "to continue to seek the most suitable ways and means for the speedy and total application of the Declaration to all Territories which have not yet attained independence".

3. At the same session, by its resolution 1805 (XVII) of 14 December 1962 on the question of South West Africa, the General Assembly requested the Special Committee to discharge, mutatis mutandis, the tasks assigned to the Special Committee for South West Africa by resolution 1702 (XVI) of 19 December 1961. By its resolution 1806 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the Assembly decided to dissolve the Special Committee for South West Africa.

4. At its eighteenth session, by resolution 1970 (XVIII) of 16 December 1963, the General Assembly decided to dissolve the Committee on Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories and requested the Special Committee to study the information transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations. It also requested the Special Committee to take that information fully into account in examining the situation with regard to the implementation of the Declaration in each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and to undertake any special study and prepare any special report it might consider necessary.

5. At the same session and at each subsequent session, the General Assembly, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[2] has adopted a resolution renewing the mandate of the Special Committee.

6. On the occasion of the tenth, twentieth, twenty-fifth and thirtieth anniversaries of the Declaration, the General Assembly, by approving the related reports of the Special Committee, adopted resolutions 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, 35/118 of 11 December 1980, 40/56 of 2 December 1985 and 45/33 of 20 November 1990, containing a series of recommendations with a view to facilitating the speedy implementation of the Declaration.

7. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly, by adopting resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991, endorsed as a plan of action for the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism the proposals contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). The plan, inter alia, contained the following provisions:

> "22. The Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should:
>
> "(a) Prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory;
>
> "(b) Review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of Non-Self-Governing Territories;
>
> "(c) Organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations,

specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

"23. The Special Committee should continue to seek, as a matter of priority, the full cooperation of administering Powers with regard to the dispatch of United Nations visiting missions to Non-Self-Governing Territories.

"24. The Special Committee, with the cooperation of the administering Powers, should make every effort to facilitate and encourage the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in regional and international organizations, as well as in the specialized agencies of the United Nations system, the Special Committee itself and other United Nations decolonization bodies."

8. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General (A/56/61).

9. At its fifty-sixth session, after considering the report of the Special Committee,[3] the General Assembly, on 10 December 2001, adopted resolution 56/74, in which, inter alia, it:

"5. Approves the report of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples covering its work during 2001, including the programme of work envisaged for 2002;[4]

"...

"8. Requests the Special Committee to continue to seek suitable means for the immediate and full implementation of the Declaration and to carry out those actions approved by the General Assembly regarding the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Second International Decade in all Territories that have not yet exercised their right to self-determination, including independence, and in particular:

"(a) To formulate specific proposals to bring about an end to colonialism and to report thereon to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

"(b) To continue to examine the implementation by Member States of resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions on decolonization;

"(c) To continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, including through the dispatch of visiting missions, and to recommend to the General Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence;

"(d) To finalize before the end of 2002 a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories to facilitate the implementation of the mandate of the Special Committee and the relevant resolutions on decolonization, including resolutions on specific Territories;

"(e) To take all necessary steps to enlist worldwide support among Governments, as well as national and international organizations, for the achievement of the objectives of the Declaration and the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

"(f) To conduct seminars, as appropriate, for the purpose of receiving and disseminating information on the work of the Special Committee, and to facilitate participation by the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in those seminars;

"(g) To observe annually the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories;[5]

"...

"14. Reaffirms that the United Nations visiting missions to the Territories are an effective means of ascertaining the situation in the Territories, as well as the wishes and aspirations of their inhabitants, and calls upon the administering Powers to continue to cooperate

with the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and to facilitate visiting missions to the Territories;

"15. Calls upon the administering Powers that have not participated formally in the work of the Special Committee to do so at its session in 2002;".

10. At the same session, the General Assembly also adopted 10 other resolutions and 3 decisions relating to specific Territories or other items on the agenda of the Special Committee, as well as a number of other resolutions relevant to the work of the Special Committee, by which the Assembly entrusted the Special Committee with specific tasks in relation to those Territories and items. Those decisions are listed below.

1. Resolutions, consensus and decisions concerning specific Territories

Resolutions

Territory	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Western Sahara	56/69	10 December 2001
New Caledonia	56/70	10 December 2001
Tokelau	56/71	10 December 2001
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	56/72 A and B	10 December 2001

Decisions

Territory	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	56/410	26 November 2001
Gibraltar	56/421	10 December 2001

2. Resolutions concerning other items

Title	*Resolution number*	*Date of adoption*
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	56/65	10 December 2001
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	56/66	10 December 2001
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	56/67	10 December 2001
Offers by Member States of study and training facilities for inhabitants of Non-Self-Governing Territories	56/68	10 December 2001
Dissemination of information on decolonization	56/73	10 December 2001

3. Decision concerning other questions

Title	*Decision number*	*Date of adoption*
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	56/420	10 December 2001

11. At its 62nd plenary meeting, on 26 November 2001, the General Assembly decided to defer consideration of the item entitled "Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas)" and to include it in the provisional agenda of its fifty-seventh session (see decision 56/410).

12. At its 95th plenary meeting, on 1 May 2002, the General Assembly adopted resolution 56/282 by which it, inter alia, decided to remove East Timor from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories upon its accession to independence.

4. Other resolutions and decisions relevant to the work of the Special Committee

13. Other resolutions and decisions adopted by the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session that were relevant to the work of the Special Committee and that were taken into consideration by the Special Committee are listed in a note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2002/L.1).

5. Membership of the Special Committee

14. As of 1 January 2002, the Special Committee was composed of the following 23 members:

Antigua and Barbuda	Ethiopia
Bolivia	Fiji
Chile	Grenada
China	India
Congo	Indonesia
Côte d'Ivoire	Iran (Islamic Republic of)
Cuba	Iraq

Mali	Syrian Arab Republic
Papua New Guinea	Tunisia
Russian Federation	United Republic of Tanzania
Saint Lucia	Venezuela
Sierra Leone	

A list of representatives who attended the meetings of the Special Committee in 2002 appears in document A/AC.109/2002/INF/1.

B. Opening of the meetings of the Special Committee in 2002 and election of officers

15. The Deputy Secretary-General addressed the Special Committee at its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002. The Chairman made a statement at that meeting. Statements were also made by the representatives of Papua New Guinea, Antigua and Barbuda, Cuba, Côte d'Ivoire, China, Grenada and Venezuela. The representative of New Zealand, an administering Power, made a statement (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.1).

16. At the same meeting, the Special Committee unanimously elected the following officers:

Chairman:
Earl Stephen Huntley (Saint Lucia)

Vice-Chairmen:
Bruno Rodríguez Parrilla (Cuba)
Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué (Côte d'Ivoire)

Rapporteur:
Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic)

C. Organization of work

17. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2), the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. The Special Committee also decided to adopt the suggestions of the Chairman relating to the allocation of items and the procedure for their consideration (see A/AC.109/2002/L.2).

18. At the 1st meeting, the Chairman made a statement relating to the organization of work (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.1).

19. At the 4th meeting, on 6 June 2002, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegation of Spain had expressed the wish to participate in the proceedings of the Special Committee on the question of Gibraltar. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

20. At the 6th meeting, the Chairman informed the Committee that the delegation of the Dominican Republic had requested to participate as an observer in the proceedings of the Committee. The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

21. At the 8th meeting, on 19 June, the Chairman informed the Special Committee that the delegations of Argentina, Brazil (on behalf of the States members of the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR) (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay) as well as Bolivia and Chile), Peru, Paraguay and Uruguay had requested to participate in the Special Committee's consideration of the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). The Special Committee decided to accede to the request.

D. Meetings of the Special Committee and its subsidiary bodies

22. In keeping with its resolve to continue taking all possible measures to rationalize the organization of its work, and with the full and close cooperation of its entire membership, the Special Committee and its subsidiary body were again able to keep to a minimum the number of their formal meetings, as indicated below, by holding, whenever possible, informal meetings and extensive consultations through officers of the Special Committee.

1. Special Committee

23. The Special Committee held 10 meetings at Headquarters during 2002, as follows:

(a) First part of the session: 1st meeting, 12 February and 2nd meeting, 28 March;

(b) Second part of the session: 3rd and 4th meetings, 3 and 6 June; 5th and 6th meetings, 10 June; 7th and 8th meetings, 17 and 19 June; 9th and 10th meetings, 24 and 26 June.

24. During the session, the Special Committee considered in plenary meetings the following questions and adopted decisions thereon, as indicated below:

Question	*Meetings*	*Decision*
Dissemination of information on decolonization	3rd	A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. G
Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations	3rd	A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. A
Question of sending visiting missions to Territories	3rd, 10th	A/57/23 (Part II), chap. IV, para. 17
Special Committee decision of 21 June 2001 concerning Puerto Rico	5th, 6th	A/57/23 (Part I), chap. I, para. 37
American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, St. Helena, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands	10th	A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. F
Tokelau	7th	A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. E
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	8th	A/57/23 (Part II), para. 105
Gibraltar	4th	A/57/23 (Part II), para. 60
New Caledonia	7th	A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. D
Western Sahara	6th	A/57/23 (Part II), para. 71
Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations	8th	A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. C
Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories	10th	A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. B
Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration	10th	A/57/23 (Part III), sect. H

2. Subsidiary bodies

Bureau

25. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2) the Special Committee decided to maintain its Bureau as the only subsidiary body of the Committee. During the period covered by the present report, the Bureau held five meetings.

26. The Informal Working Group on the Programme of Work for the Non-Self-Governing Territories held one informal meeting on 17 June with the representatives of New Zealand, administering Power for Tokelau, *Ulu o Tokelau* and the Administrator of Tokelau on the programme of work for Tokelau.

27. At its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, following the statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee adopted a report of the Special Committee on pending matters related to its work (A/AC.109/2002/L.16) without a vote.

E. Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

28. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2) the Special Committee decided to take the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable as appropriate. In taking that decision, the Special Committee recalled that, in its report to the General Assembly at its fifty-sixth session,[6] it had stated that, subject to any directives that the Assembly might wish to give in that connection, it would continue, as part of its programme of work for 2002, to review the list of Territories to which the Declaration applied. The Special Committee also recalled that, in paragraph 5 of its resolution 56/74, the Assembly had approved the report of the Special Committee, including the programme of work envisaged by the Special Committee for 2002.

29. At its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, the Special Committee decided to continue its consideration of the question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-seventh session (see A/AC.109/2002/L.16, para. 10).

Special Committee decision of 21 June 2001 concerning Puerto Rico[7]

30. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2) the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Special Committee decision of 21 June 2001 concerning Puerto Rico" and to consider it at plenary meetings.

31. At the 5th meeting, on 10 June 2002, the Chairman drew attention to a number of communications received from organizations expressing the wish to be heard on Puerto Rico by the Special Committee. At the same meeting, the Special Committee agreed to accede to those requests and heard the representatives of the organizations concerned at its 5th and 6th meetings (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.5 and 6), as indicated below:

(a) 5th meeting

Jaime Ruberté, Colegio de Abogados de Puerto Rico; Jorge Farinacci García, Frente Socialista; Carlos Vizcarrondo Irizarry, House of Representatives of Puerto Rico; Manuel González, Partido Nacionalista de Puerto Rico; Luis Barrios, San Romero de las Americas Church; Fernando Martin-Garcia, Puerto Rican Independence Party; Ismael Guadalupe, Committee for the Rescue and Development of Vieques; Edwin Pagán, ProLibertad Freedom Campaign; Juan Mari Brás, on behalf of Causa Común Independentista (Proyecto Educativo Puertorriqueño); Betty Brassell, United for Vieques, Puerto Rico, Inc.; Julio Muriente, on behalf of Nuevo Movimiento Independentista Puertorriqueño; Hector L. Pesquera, on behalf of Congreso Nacional Hostosiano; Frank Velgara, on behalf of Vieques Support Campaign; Wilfredo Santiago Valiente, United Statehooders Organization of New York, Inc; Elsie Valdes, Puertorriqueños ante la ONU, Inc.; Haydee Rivera, Puertorriqueños Pro Estadidad, Inc.; and Mr. Luis Vega Ramos, on behalf of PROELA.

(b) 6th meeting

Nelson W. Canals, Gran Oriente Nacional de Puerto Rico; Anita Velez Mitchell, Primavera, Inc.;

José Adames, Al Frente; Nilda Luz Rexach, National Advancement for Puerto Rican Culture; Roger Calero, Socialist Workers Party and Vanessa Ramos, American Association of Jurists.

32. At the 5th meeting, the representative of Cuba introduced draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.8.

33. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Venezuela, Iraq and the Islamic Republic of Iran (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.6).

34. At the same meeting, a statement in explanation of position was made by the representative of Chile (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.6).

35. At the same meeting, the Special Committee adopted draft resolution A/AC.109/2002/L.8 without a vote (see A/AC.109/2002/22).

36. At the same meeting, the representative of Cuba made a statement (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.6).

37. The text of resolution A/AC.109/2002/22, adopted by the Special Committee at its 6th meeting, on 10 June 2002, appears below:

The Special Committee,

Bearing in mind the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960, as well as the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Considering that the decade of the 1990s was proclaimed by the General Assembly, in its resolution 43/47 of 22 November 1988, as the Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and that by resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, the General Assembly declared the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Bearing in mind the 20 resolutions and decisions adopted by the Special Committee on the question of Puerto Rico, contained in the reports of the Special Committee to the General Assembly,

Recalling that 25 July 2002 marks the one hundred and fourth anniversary of the intervention in Puerto Rico by the United States of America,

Also recalling the diverse initiatives taken by the political representatives of Puerto Rico and the United States in recent years, which have thus far failed to set in motion the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico,

Stressing the need for the United States to lay the groundwork for the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico,

Taking into account the measures recently adopted by both Chambers of the Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico recommending the convening of a Status Assembly of the people of Puerto Rico as part of the search for procedures that would make it possible to launch the process of decolonization of Puerto Rico,

Aware that Vieques Island, Puerto Rico, has been used for over 60 years by the United States Marines to carry out military manoeuvres, thereby limiting access by the civilian population to an area equivalent to barely a quarter of the island, with negative consequences for the health of the population, the environment and the economic and social development of the Territory,

Regretting that the Government of the United States continues its military manoeuvres and bombings on Vieques Island, which is inhabited, removing and incarcerating hundreds of peaceful demonstrators, including political figures, and imposing further restrictions on the civilian population,

Noting the intention expressed by the President of the United States to put an end to the military manoeuvres on Vieques by 1 May 2003 or earlier,

Further noting the consensus among the people as well as within the Government of Puerto Rico on the urgency of halting the military manoeuvres on Vieques Island and on the return of the occupied land to the people of Puerto Rico,

Bearing in mind that an official referendum called by the Government of Puerto Rico on 29 July 2001 showed that an overwhelming majority of the people of Vieques are in favour of an immediate, permanent halt to military manoeuvres on Vieques,

Noting the consensus among the people of Puerto Rico in favour of the release of all Puerto Rican political prisoners who are serving sentences in United States prisons for cases related to Puerto Rico's independence,

Recalling the release of 11 Puerto Rican political prisoners in 2000,

Noting that the final document of the Thirteenth Ministerial Conference of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Cartagena (Colombia) on 8 and 9 April 2000,[8] the final communiqué of the Meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs and Heads of Delegation of the Non-Aligned Movement, held in New York on 14 November 2001,[9] and the final communiqué of the Ministerial Meeting of the Coordinating Bureau of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries, held in Durban (South Africa) from 27 to 29 April 2002, reaffirm the right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence on the basis of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and request the Special Committee to continue actively pursuing the issue of Puerto Rico,

Having heard statements and testimonies representative of various viewpoints among the people of Puerto Rico and their social institutions,

Having considered the report of the Rapporteur of the Special Committee on the implementation of the resolutions concerning Puerto Rico,[10]

1. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the people of Puerto Rico to self-determination and independence in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the applicability of the fundamental principles of that resolution to the question of Puerto Rico;

2. *Reiterates* that the Puerto Rican people constitute a Latin American and Caribbean nation that has its own unequivocal national identity;

3. *Calls upon* the Government of the United States of America to assume its responsibility of expediting a process that will allow the Puerto Rican people fully to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination and independence, in conformity with General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and the resolutions and decisions of the Special Committee concerning Puerto Rico;

4. *Notes with satisfaction* that, in recent years, progress has been achieved towards the implementation of a mechanism that would ensure the full participation of representatives of all viewpoints prevailing in Puerto Rico, such as the proposals to convene a status Assembly of the people of Puerto Rico;

5. *Reiterates* the hope that the General Assembly will give comprehensive consideration to the question of Puerto Rico in all its aspects;

6. *Urges* the Government of the United States, in line with the need to guarantee the Puerto Rican people their legitimate right to self-determination and the protection of their human rights, to order an immediate halt to its armed forces' military drills and manoeuvres on Vieques Island, which is inhabited, return the occupied land to the people of Puerto Rico, halt the persecution, incarceration, arrests and harassment of peaceful demonstrators, immediately release all persons incarcerated in this connection, respect fundamental human rights, such as the right to health and economic development, and decontaminate the impact areas;

7. *Requests* the President of the United States of America to release all Puerto Rican political prisoners serving sentences in United States prisons for cases related to the struggle for the independence of Puerto Rico;

8. *Notes with satisfaction* the report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee,[10] in compliance with its resolution of 21 June 2001;

9. *Requests* the Rapporteur to report to the Special Committee in 2003 on the implementation of the present resolution;

10. *Decides* to keep the question of Puerto Rico under continuous review.

F. Consideration of other matters

1. Matters relating to the small Territories

38. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2) the Special Committee decided to include in its agenda the item entitled "Matters relating to the small Territories" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

39. In taking those decisions, the Special Committee took into account the provisions of the relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 56/74, in paragraph 8 (c) of which the Assembly requested the Special Committee to continue to pay special attention to the small Territories, in particular through the

dispatch of regular visiting missions, and to recommend to the Assembly the most suitable steps to be taken to enable the populations of those Territories to exercise their right to self-determination, including independence.

40. During the year, the Special Committee gave extensive consideration to all phases of the situation obtaining in the small Territories (see A/57/23 (Part II), chaps. X-XII).

2. Compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other resolutions on decolonization

41. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2) the Special Committee decided to consider in plenary meetings the question of compliance of Member States with the Declaration and other relevant resolutions on decolonization.

42. The Special Committee took that decision into account in its consideration of specific items.

3. Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

43. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2) the Special Committee decided to take up the question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

44. Having regard to its programme of work for 2003, the Special Committee, at its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, considered the question of holding meetings away from Headquarters, taking into account the provisions of paragraph 6 of General Assembly resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961 and paragraph 3 (9) of resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, by which the Assembly authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. At the same meeting, the Special Committee decided that it would consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2003 and that, when particulars of such meetings had become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provision in accordance with established procedure (see A/AC.109/2002/L.16, paras. 2 and 3).

4. Pattern of conferences

45. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2) the Special Committee decided to take up as appropriate the item entitled "Pattern of conferences". In so doing, the Special Committee was conscious of the fact that it had initiated some important measures in rationalizing its work methods, many of which were subsequently incorporated in a number of resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly. Further recalling the measures it had taken theretofore in that connection, the Special Committee decided to continue to exercise its initiatives in the effective utilization of the limited conference resources and the further reduction of its documentation requirements.

46. The Special Committee also continued the practice of circulating communications and information material, as far as possible, in the form of informal notes and aides-memoires in the original language of submission, thus curtailing documentation requirements and accruing considerable savings for the Organization. A list of the documents issued by the Special Committee in 2002 is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

47. At its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, the Special Committee considered the item and noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 56//242 of 24 December 2001. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee strived to keep the number of its formal meetings to a minimum. The Special Committee decided, taking into account its probable workload for 2003, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February/March	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings (6-8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

February/July 20 meetings

It was understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2003, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee decided, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, to strive, while fulfilling its mandate, to keep its meetings to a minimum (see A/AC.109/2002/L.16, paras. 5-7).

5. Control and limitation of documentation

48. At its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, the Special Committee considered the question of the control and limitation of documentation and noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 D of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 56/242 of 24 December 2001. The Special Committee noted that, in its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly had approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records (see A/AC.109/2002/L.16, paras. 8 and 9).

6. Cooperation and participation of the administering Powers in the work of the Special Committee

49. In compliance with the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, the delegation of New Zealand, as the administering Power, continued to participate, in accordance with established procedure, in the related work of the Special Committee (see A/57/23 (Part II), chap. XI).

50. The delegation of France participated in the work of the Special Committee during its consideration of the question of New Caledonia (see A/57/23 (Part II), chap. IX).

51. The delegations of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America did not participate in the work of the Special Committee.[11] However, during informal consultations with the Special Committee held in June 2002, both administering Powers expressed their desire to continue informal dialogue with the Special Committee (see sects. I and J of the present chapter). The representative of the United Kingdom participated in the Pacific regional seminar held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002 (see chap. II, annex).

52. In a related context, the Special Committee, at its 7th meeting, on 3 June 2002, adopted resolution A/AC.109/2002/21 on the question of sending visiting missions to Territories. By that resolution, the Special Committee noted with appreciation that, at the invitation of the Government of New Zealand, a visiting mission had been dispatched to Tokelau in July 1994. It called upon the administering Powers to cooperate or continue to cooperate with the United Nations by receiving United Nations visiting missions in the Territories under their administration (see A/56/23 (Part II), para. 16).

53. Furthermore, at its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, the Special Committee considered an invitation to dispatch a visiting mission to Tokelau extended by New Zealand, the administering Power of that Territory. The Special Committee accepted the invitation and decided to dispatch a visiting mission to Tokelau during the month of August 2002 (see A/57/23 (Part II), chaps. IV and XI).

7. Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

54. At its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, the Special Committee considered the question of the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in its work and decided that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended in the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex), should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session (see A/AC.109/L.1791, annex, and A/AC.109/L.1804). In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them

further, where appropriate (see A/AC.109/2002/L.16, para. 13).

8. Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories

55. Information on the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories is contained in document A/57/23 (Part I) chap. II, annex, paragraphs 16, 18 and 20 and appendices III and V, and in A/57/23 (Part II), chapter III, paragraph 8.

9. Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

56. At its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, the Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 12 February 2002, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Special Committee also decided that the Chairman would also have consultations with those members of the Committee whose regional group was not represented in the Bureau. It also decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2003 (see A/AC.109/2002/L.16, para. 4).

10. Report of the Special Committee to the General Assembly

57. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2), and in accordance with paragraph 31 of General Assembly decision 34/401 on the rationalization of the procedures and organization of the Assembly, the Special Committee decided to follow the procedure adopted at its 2001 session[12] in connection with the formulation of its recommendations to the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session.

58. At its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, with reference to its decision taken at the 3rd meeting, on 3 June 2002, the Special Committee, on the proposal of the Chairman, authorized the Rapporteur to reformulate the Committee's draft resolutions and decisions into the format of the General Assembly and to submit directly to the Assembly various chapters of the report in accordance with established practice and procedure.

11. Other questions

59. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2) the Special Committee decided, in its examination of specific Territories, to take into account the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions and decisions listed in the note by the Secretary-General on the organization of work of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/2002/L.1, para. 11). That decision was taken into account during the consideration of specific Territories and other items in plenary meetings.

G. Relations with United Nations bodies and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations

1. Economic and Social Council

60. In connection with the Special Committee's consideration of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations, and in accordance with paragraph 17 of General Assembly resolution 56/67 relating to the item, consultations were held between the President of the Economic and Social Council and the Chairman of the Special Committee to consider appropriate measures for coordination of the policies and activities of the specialized agencies in implementing the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.

2. Commission on Human Rights

61. During the year, the Special Committee closely followed the work of the Commission on Human Rights with regard to the question of the right of

peoples to self-determination and its application to peoples under colonial domination, and to the question of the violation of human rights and fundamental freedoms in any part of the world, with particular reference to colonial and other dependent Territories.

62. In its consideration of the Territories concerned, the Special Committee took into account the relevant resolutions adopted by the Commission on Human Rights at its fifty-eighth session, in 2002, including resolutions on the question of Western Sahara (2002/4), the question of the realization in all countries of the economic, social and cultural rights contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and study of special problems which the developing countries face in their efforts to achieve these human rights (2002/24), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (2002/54), the Working Group on Indigenous Populations of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People (2002/63), the working group of the Commission on Human Rights to elaborate a draft declaration in accordance with paragraph 5 of General Assembly resolution 49/214 of 23 December 1994 (2002/64), and the work of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (2002/66), and the right to development (2002/69). The Special Committee further took into account the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, including resolutions 56/135, 56/140, 56/141, 56/150 and 56/153 of 19 December 2001.

3. Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination

63. During the year, having regard to the relevant provisions of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the Special Committee continued to follow the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (see also paras. 71 and 72 below).

4. Specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

64. In accordance with the requests contained in the relevant General Assembly resolutions, the Special Committee continued its consideration of the question of the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (see also para. 60 above). An account of the Special Committee's consideration of the question is set out in chapter VII of the present report (see A/57/23 (Part II)).

65. During the year, the Special Committee adopted decisions relating to the extension of assistance to the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. Those decisions are reflected in recommendations of the Special Committee to the General Assembly (see A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII).

5. Organization of African Unity

66. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact with the Organization of African Unity (OAU) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of OAU.

6. Caribbean Community

67. Bearing in mind its previous decisions to maintain contact with the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) on a regular basis in order to assist in the effective discharge of its mandate, the Special Committee, as in previous years, closely followed the work of CARICOM.

7. Pacific Islands Forum

68. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Pacific Islands Forum concerning the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the south Pacific region.

8. Movement of Non-Aligned Countries

69. The Special Committee continued to follow closely the work of the Movement of the Non-Aligned Countries regarding the issue of decolonization.

9. Non-governmental organizations

70. Having regard to the relevant provisions of General Assembly resolutions 56/73 and 56/74, the Special Committee continued to follow closely the activities of non-governmental organizations having a special interest in the field of decolonization. The participation of non-governmental organizations in the

work of the Special Committee during the period under review is covered in detail in the Special Committee documents (see A/AC.109/2002/19) and the present report (see para. 31 above and chap. II, annex, below). The related decisions of the Special Committee are listed in chapter XIII of the present report (see A/57/23 (Part III)).

H. Action relating to international conventions/studies/programmes

1. International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

71. At its 1st meeting, on 12 February 2002, by adopting the suggestions relating to the organization of its work put forward by the Chairman (A/AC.109/2002/L.2), the Special Committee decided to include in the agenda of its 2002 session an item entitled "International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination" and to consider it at its plenary meetings.

72. The Special Committee continued to monitor related developments in the Territories, having regard to the relevant provisions of article 15 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (General Assembly resolution 2106 A (XX), annex).

2. Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination

73. The Special Committee continued to take into account the provisions of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations bodies concerned relating to the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination.

I. Review of work

74. As noted elsewhere in the present report, the reform processes initiated by the Special Committee in 1991, which brought about a number of changes and improvements in its approach, methods and procedures, continued to be actively pursued in 2002. The measures adopted by the Special Committee included the streamlining and consolidation of a number of its resolutions. With regard to the preparation of the consolidated draft resolution, the Special Committee held extensive informal consultations with the administering Powers concerned and other States as well as with the representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee's recommendation to the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session on 12 Territories was consolidated into two resolutions (A/AC.109/2002/24 and A/AC.109/2002/30; see A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sects. E and F).

75. The Special Committee also reviewed its resolutions on information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations (A/AC.109/2001/20), the question of sending visiting missions to Territories (A/AC.109/2002/21), implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/AC.109/2002/26) and economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2002/28), as well as its decision on military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration (A/AC.109/2002/29).

76. As noted in chapter II of the present report, the Special Committee held a Pacific regional seminar at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002 in implementation of the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism referred to in General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000.

77. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly, the Special Committee continued to seek suitable means for the implementation of resolution 1514 (XV) in all Territories to which the Declaration is applicable and formulated specific proposals and recommendations in that regard.

78. On the question of the publicity to be given to the work of the United Nations in the field of decolonization, the Special Committee adopted a resolution (A/AC.109/2002/20) which it recommends to the General Assembly for action at its fifty-seventh session (see A/57/23 (Part III), chap. XIII, sect. G).

79. The Special Committee also continued its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable. With regard to its decision of 21 June 2001 concerning Puerto Rico, the Special Committee heard a number of representatives of organizations concerned and adopted a resolution on the matter

(A/AC.109/2002/22), which is set out in paragraph 37 of the present chapter.

80. During the period under review, the Special Committee continued the critical review of its work and its programme of future work by holding a number of informal meetings. The Special Committee continued discussion on the case-by-case work programmes for each of the Non-Self-Governing Territories within the framework of the informal Working Group on the Programme of Work for the Non-Self-Governing Territories (see paras. 28 above) and held informal consultations on the matter with the administering Powers concerned with a view to improving cooperation between the Committee and the administering Powers (see sect. J below).

81. In accordance with the guidelines established by the General Assembly, the Special Committee was able during the year to reduce the number of its formal meetings and to minimize the wastage resulting from cancellation of scheduled meetings.

J. Future work

82. In accordance with the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly since 1961 and subject to further directives from the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session, the Special Committee intends to continue during 2003 to pursue its efforts in bringing to a speedy and unconditional end to colonialism in all its forms and manifestations, in accordance with Article 73 of the Charter and the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

83. The Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism provides an important political framework for continued and strengthened efforts to advance the decolonization agenda of the United Nations.

84. In 2003, the Special Committee intends to continue and intensify its dialogue and cooperation with the administering Powers for the purpose of furthering the cause of decolonization through the development of programmes of work for the decolonization of specific Territories as agreed in 2000 and 2001. Basic working documentation and reference material for this purpose have been prepared and distributed, on an informal basis, with the concerned Member States and Non-Self-Governing Territories. In this connection, the Special Committee prepared in 2000 a non-paper containing a generic programme of work outlining objectives, activities, outcomes and target or key dates. Furthermore, working papers submitted by members of the Special Committee (A/AC.109/1999/20 and A/AC.109/1999/21) on the conceptual framework for the review of progress in the implementation of the 1960 Declaration have enriched the Special Committee's discussions. In accordance with agreements reached with the administering Powers concerned, they will ensure the participation of representatives of the Territories at every stage of discussions. The Special Committee will continue to exercise flexibility in working jointly with the administering Power and the representatives of the Territories in developing work programmes for American Samoa, Pitcairn and Tokelau respectively. The members of the Special Committee were particularly encouraged by the fruitful meetings held in June 2001 and 2002 with the representatives of New Zealand and Tokelau regarding progress made in the process towards self-determination in this Territory. An initial draft programme of work was prepared as a result of these discussions. In the coming year, the Special Committee will continue its consultations with the administering Power and the representatives of Tokelau as it follows further advances in the Territory within the framework of the work programme for the decolonization of Tokelau.

85. In order to discharge its responsibilities, the Special Committee will keep the situation in the Territories under continuous review, examining the impact of developments concerning each Territory on their political advancement. It will also review the compliance by Member States, particularly the administering Powers, with the relevant decisions and resolutions of the United Nations.

86. The Special Committee will continue to submit conclusions and recommendations on the specific measures necessary to achieve the objectives set out in the Declaration and the relevant provisions of the Charter. The Special Committee also intends to continue its review of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable.

87. The Special Committee will continue to fulfil the responsibilities that have been entrusted to it in the context of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, declared by the General Assembly in its resolution 55/146 and particularly with regard to the implementation of the Plan of Action

contained in document A/56/61. The Special Committee has been greatly encouraged by the growing interest and participation of the people in the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the regional seminars it conducts annually and by the wider participation of Member States, specialized agencies and programmes, non-governmental organizations and experts. In this regard, the Special Committee will continue to conduct these seminars, for the purpose of assessing, receiving and disseminating information on the situation in the Territories, in order to facilitate implementation of its mandate. It will also continue to disseminate information on the work of the Special Committee. In this connection, the Special Committee will hold a seminar in the Caribbean region in 2003.

88. The Special Committee will continue to seek the views of the representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories and in that regard will seek the implementation of General Assembly resolutions calling upon the administering Powers to cooperate or to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee by inviting United Nations visiting missions to the Territories under their administration. Having regard to the constructive role played by such missions in the past, the Special Committee continues to attach the utmost importance to the dispatch of visiting missions as a means of collecting adequate and first-hand information on conditions in the Territories and on the wishes and aspirations of the peoples concerning their future status. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to seek the full cooperation of the administering Powers in facilitating the implementation of the Special Committee's mandate for visiting missions, particularly in the context of developing work programmes for specific Territories and in support of the decolonization process in those Territories.

89. The Special Committee will continue to pay special attention to the specific problems of the small island Territories, which constitute the overwhelming majority of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Special Committee is aware that, in addition to general problems facing developing countries, those island Territories also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, fragility of ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, a highly limited internal market, lack of natural resources, weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of individuals with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens. The Special Committee will continue to recommend measures to facilitate a sustained and balanced growth of the fragile economies of those Territories and increased assistance in the development of all the sectors of their economies, with particular emphasis on programmes of diversification. The Special Committee believes that issues facing the Non-Self-Governing Territories, such as environmental problems; the impact of hurricanes, volcanoes and other natural disasters, beach and coastal erosion and drought; finding ways and means to fight drug trafficking, money-laundering and other illegal and criminal activities; and the illegal exploitation of the marine resources of the Territories and the need to utilize those resources for the benefit of their peoples, should remain the focus of its attention. In so doing, the Special Committee will continue to take into consideration the recommendations of the regional seminars that it has organized since 1990.[13]

90. It is the intention of the Special Committee to continue to follow closely the implementation of the Declaration by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations. In so doing, the Special Committee, as in the past, will review the actions taken or envisaged by international organizations in the implementation of the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly. The Special Committee will hold further consultations and contacts with those organizations, as appropriate. It will also be guided by the results of consultations held in 2002 between its Chairman and the President of the Economic and Social Council in the context of the relevant decisions of the Assembly, the Council and the Special Committee itself. Furthermore, the Special Committee will maintain close contact with the secretaries-general and senior officials of regional organizations, such as OAU, OAS, CARICOM and the Pacific Islands Forum, particularly those in the Caribbean and Pacific regions. The objective of those contacts is to facilitate the effective implementation of the decisions of the various United Nations bodies and to foster cooperation between the specialized agencies and the regional organizations in providing assistance

for the Non-Self-Governing Territories in a given region.

91. The Special Committee will also strive to follow up on the General Assembly's request that the participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of relevant meetings and conferences of the agencies and organizations be facilitated so that the Territories can benefit from the related activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system. Such participation would constitute an effective means of promoting the progress of the peoples of those Territories, enabling them to enhance their standard of living and achieve greater self-sufficiency.

92. The Special Committee intends to take into account the agreement reached with the European Union on economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories (A/AC.109/2002/28) and to continue its cooperation with interested States to ensure that the interests of the peoples of those Territories are protected. The Special Committee will continue its study of military activities and arrangements in the Territories and will also cooperate with interested States in that regard.

93. Taking into consideration its mandate on Western Sahara and its primary responsibility to ensure the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) for all Non-Self-Governing Territories, and in accordance with a decision it had taken at its 1397th meeting, on 23 August 1991, the Special Committee may dispatch a mission to Western Sahara during the holding of the referendum in the Territory.

94. Taking into account the views expressed by the representatives of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories at the regional seminars organized by the Special Committee since 1990, as well as the recommendations contained in the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the Special Committee will continue to consider, in cooperation with the administering Powers, how to intensify and improve the participation of the representatives of those Territories in the work of the Special Committee within existing resources.

95. In the light of the provisions of the General Assembly resolutions concerning the pattern of conferences and taking into consideration its experience in previous years as well as its probable workload for 2003, the Special Committee has approved a tentative programme of meetings for 2003, which it commends to the Assembly for approval.

96. The Special Committee has consistently reiterated the importance of disseminating information on decolonization as an instrument for furthering the aims of the Declaration. Accordingly, the Special Committee will continue to use opportunities such as the regional seminars and the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories to disseminate information on its activities and on the Territories in an effort to mobilize world public opinion to support and assist the people of the Territories in bringing about the speedy and unconditional end of colonialism in all its forms and manifestations.

97. The Special Committee suggests that, when the General Assembly, at its fifty-seventh session, examines the question of the implementation of the Declaration, it may wish to take into account the various recommendations of the Special Committee that are reflected in the relevant chapters of the present report and, in particular, to endorse the proposals outlined in the present section in order to enable the Special Committee to carry out the tasks it envisages for 2003. The Special Committee recommends that the Assembly renew its appeal to the administering Powers to take all necessary steps for the implementation of the Declaration and the relevant United Nations resolutions, in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples of the Territories concerned. In that connection, the Special Committee recommends that the Assembly request all the administering Powers to become involved with the work of the Special Committee in the discharge of its mandate and, in particular, to participate actively in the work relating to the Territories under their respective administrations. The Special Committee also recommends that the Assembly continue to invite the administering Powers to allow representatives of the Territories concerned to participate in the discussions in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) and the Special Committee on the items relating to their respective Territories. Furthermore, the Assembly might also wish to renew its appeal to all States, the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to comply with the various requests addressed to them by the Assembly and the Security Council in their relevant resolutions.

98. The Special Committee recommends that, in approving the programme of work outlined above, the General Assembly make adequate provision to cover the activities that the Special Committee envisages for 2003. In that regard, the Special Committee recalls that the programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003 includes resources to provide for the programme of work of the Special Committee for 2002-2003 based on the level of activities approved for 2001, without prejudice to the decisions to be taken by the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session. On that basis, the Special Committee understands that, should any additional provisions be required over and above those included in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2002-2003, proposals for supplementary requirements would be made to the General Assembly for its approval. Finally, the Special Committee expresses the hope that the Secretary-General will continue to provide it with all the facilities and personnel necessary for the discharge of its mandate, taking into account the various tasks assigned to it by the Assembly as well as those arising from decisions taken by it during the current year.

K. Conclusion of the 2002 session

99. At its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002, the Special Committee decided to authorize its Rapporteur to prepare and submit directly to the General Assembly the various chapters of the report of the Special Committee in accordance with established practice and procedure.

100. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a statement on the occasion of the closing of the 2002 session of the Special Committee (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.10) with the understanding that the Special Committee might hold an additional meeting at a later stage to consider the report of the United Nations visiting mission to Tokelau.

Notes

[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Seventeenth Session, Annexes*, addendum to agenda item 25, document A/5238.

[2] See the reports of the Special Committee submitted to the General Assembly at its eighteenth to fifty-sixth sessions. For the most recent, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23); and ibid., *Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23).

[3] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23).

[4] See A/56/23 (Part I), chap. I, sect. J. For the final text, see *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23*.

[5] See resolution 2911 (XXVII).

[6] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23*, (A/56/23), chap. I, para. 32.

[7] Ibid., chap. I, para. 39.

[8] A/54/917-S/2000/580, annex.

[9] A/56/682-S/2001/1159, annex.

[10] A/AC.109/2002/L.4.

[11] For the explanation of their non-participation, see documents A/47/86, A/42/651, annex, and *Official Records of the General Assembly, Forty-first Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/41/23), chap. I, paras. 76 and 77.

[12] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23), chap. I, paras. 57 and 58.

[13] See A/AC.109/1040 and Corr.1, A/AC.109/1043, A/AC.109/1114, A/AC.109/1159, A/AC.109/2030, A/AC.109/2058, A/AC.109/2089, A/AC.109/2121, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fourth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/54/23), annex II, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/55/23), annex II, *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23), annex, and the annex to chapter II of the present report.

Annex

List of documents of the Special Committee, 2002

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
Documents issued in the general series		
A/AC.109/2002/INF/1	List of delegations	1 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/1	Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism: Pacific Regional Seminar to Review the Political, Economic and Social Conditions in the Small Island Non-Self-Governing Territories, to be held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002: guidelines and rules of procedure	22 March 2002
A/AC.109/2002/2 and Add.1	Pitcairn (working paper)	13 March 2002 15 April 2002
A/AC.109/2002/3	Anguilla (working paper)	1 April 2002
A/AC.109/2002/4	United States Virgin Islands (working paper)	27 March 2002
A/AC.109/2002/5	Saint Helena (working paper)	5 April 2002
A/AC.109/2002/6	Tokelau (working paper)	5 April 2002
A/AC.109/2002/7	Cayman Islands (working paper)	9 April 2002
A/AC.109/2002/8	Guam (working paper)	23 April 2002
A/AC.109/2002/9	British Virgin Islands (working paper)	2 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/10	Western Sahara (working paper)	15 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/11	Gibraltar (working paper)	8 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/12	American Samoa (working paper)	14 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/13	New Caledonia (working paper)	14 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/14	Turks and Caicos Islands (working paper)	7 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/15	Bermuda (working paper)	22 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/16 and Corr.1	Falkland Islands (Malvinas) (working paper)	21 May 2002 18 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/17	Montserrat (working paper)	16 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/17	American Samoa (working paper)	29 May 2002

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2002/18	Dissemination of information on decolonization during the period from June 2001 to May 2002: report of the Department of Public Information	30 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/19	Dissemination of information on decolonization: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 3 June 2002	4 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/20	Information on Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 3 June 2002	4 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/21	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 3rd meeting, on 3 June 2002	4 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/22	Special Committee decision of 21 June 2001 concerning Puerto Rico: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 6th meeting, on 10 June 2002	11 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/23	Question of New Caledonia: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 17 June 2002	18 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/24	Question of Tokelau: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 7th meeting, on 17 June 2002	18 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/25	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 8th meeting, on 19 June 2002	20 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/26	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 9th meeting, on 24 June 2002	24 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/27	Letter dated 25 June from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of New Zealand to the United Nations addressed to the Chairman of the Special Committee	25 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/28	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002	26 June 2002

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2002/29	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: decision adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002	26 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/30	Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: resolution adopted by the Special Committee at its 10th meeting, on 26 June 2002	26 June 2002

Documents issued in the limited series

A/AC.109/2002/L.1	Organization of work: relevant resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly: note by the Secretary-General	5 February 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.2	Organization of work: note by the Chairman	5 February 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.3	Question of East Timor: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	20 March 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.4	Special Committee decision of 21 June 2001 concerning Puerto Rico: report prepared by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	6 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.5	Dissemination of information on decolonization: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	22 May 2002
A/AC.109/2000/L.6	Information from Non-Self-Governing Territories transmitted under Article 73 *e* of the Charter of the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	22 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.7	Question of sending visiting missions to Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	22 May 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.8	Special Committee decision of 21 June 2001 concerning Puerto Rico: draft resolution submitted by Cuba	5 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.9	Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations: draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	5 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.10	Military activities and arrangements by colonial Powers in Territories under their administration: draft decision submitted by the Chairman	5 June 2002

Document symbol	*Title*	*Date*
A/AC.109/2002/L.11	Economic and other activities which affect the interests of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories: draft resolution submitted by the Acting Chairman	10 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.12	Question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas): draft resolution submitted by Bolivia, Chile, Cuba and Venezuela	10 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.13	Question of New Caledonia: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	11 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.14	Question of Tokelau: draft resolution submitted by Fiji and Papua New Guinea	26 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.15 and Rev.1	Questions of the Non-Self-Governing Territories of American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, the British Virgin Islands, the Cayman Islands, Guam, Montserrat, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, the Turks and Caicos Islands and the United States Virgin Islands: consolidated draft resolution submitted by the Chairman	18 June 2002 24 June 2002
A/AC.109/2002/L.16	Report of the Special Committee	24 June 2002

Chapter II
Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

101. On 19 December 1991, at its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181, entitled "International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism", and the Plan of Action contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1). In the Plan of Action, "aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism", the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee:

> "[to] organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts."

102. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the Plan of Action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991, updated where necessary, to serve as the Plan of Action for the Second Decade. The updated plan of action is contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the Second Decade (A/56/61, annex).

103. At its 1st and 2nd meetings, on 12 February and 28 March 2002, the Special Committee, mindful of the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly in the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, and by approving the recommendation of its Chairman on the organization of work of the Special Committee for the year (A/AC.109/2002/L.2), decided to allocate to plenary meetings of the Special Committee, as appropriate, the question of the "Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism".

104. The Special Committee considered the questions of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism and the Pacific Regional Seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002, at its 1st, 2nd and 9th meetings, on 12 February, 28 March and 24 June 2002.

105. The Special Committee had before it the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Pacific Regional Seminar (A/AC.109/2002/1).

106. At its 2nd meeting, on 28 March, following a statement by the Chairman, the Special Committee approved the composition of the official delegation of the Special Committee to the Pacific Regional Seminar (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.2).

107. The Special Committee also decided to invite United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of actions they had taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and to submit a report to the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session, subject to any directives that the Assembly might give at its fifty-seventh session in that regard (see A/AC.109/2002/L.16).

108. At the 9th meeting, on 24 June 2002, the Chairman of the Special Committee drew attention to the draft report of the Pacific Regional Seminar, which had been circulated to members of the Special Committee as a conference room paper.

109. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee introduced the draft report of the Seminar, which contained a detailed account of the organization and proceedings of the Seminar (see A/AC.109/2002/SR.9).

110. At the same meeting, following the statements made by the representatives of Bolivia and Côte d'Ivoire, the Committee adopted the draft report of the Pacific Regional Seminar and decided to annex it to its report to the General Assembly. The full text of the report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar is contained in the annex to the present chapter.

Annex

Pacific Regional Seminar to review the political, economic and social conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002

Rapporteur: Fayssal **Mekdad** (Syrian Arab Republic)

Contents

Chapter		*Page*
I.	Introduction	29
II.	Organization of the Seminar	30
III.	Conduct of the Seminar	31
	A. Proceedings of the Seminar	31
	B. Summary of statements and discussions	32
IV.	Conclusions and recommendations	39
Appendices		
I.	List of participants	46
II.	Statement by the Honourable Kaliopate Tavola, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji	49
III.	Statement by Earl Stephen Huntley, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations, Chairman of the Special Committee	52
IV.	Statement by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee	54
V.	Message by the Secretary-General	57
VI.	Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji	58

I. Introduction

1. On 22 November 1988, the General Assembly adopted resolution 43/47 on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which read in part as follows:

> "*The General Assembly*,
>
> "...
>
> "1. *Declares* the period 1990-2000 as the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;
>
> "2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its forty-fourth session a report that would enable the Assembly to consider and adopt an action plan aimed at ushering in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism."

2. At its forty-sixth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 46/181 of 19 December 1991 on the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and the plan of action contained in the report of the Secretary-General (A/46/634/Rev.1 and Corr.1) aimed at ushering in, in the twenty-first century, a world free from colonialism. In the plan of action, the Assembly, inter alia, requested the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples to organize during the Decade seminars in the Caribbean and Pacific regions alternately, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, to review the progress achieved in the implementation of the plan of action, with the participation of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories,[a] their elected representatives, the administering Powers, Member States, regional organizations, specialized agencies, non-governmental organizations and experts.

3. In its resolution 46/70 of 11 December 1991 on cooperation and coordination of specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations in their assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories, the General Assembly stated that:

> "In addition to general problems facing developing countries, the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, many of which are small island Territories, also suffer handicaps arising from the interplay of such factors as their size, remoteness, geographical dispersion, vulnerability to natural disasters, the fragility of their ecosystems, constraints in transport and communications, great distances from market centres, ... weak indigenous technological capacity, the acute problem of obtaining freshwater supplies, heavy dependence on imports and a small number of commodities, depletion of non-renewable resources, migration, particularly of personnel with high-level skills, shortage of administrative personnel and heavy financial burdens".

4. At its fifty-fifth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000, declaring the period 2001-2010 the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, and called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action, as contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General dated 13 December 1991 (see para. 2 above), updated where necessary, to serve as the plan of action for the Second Decade. The report of the Secretary-General on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61) contains an updated plan of action.

5. In its resolution 56/74 of 10 December 2001, the General Assembly approved the report of the Special Committee,[b] which inter alia called for the holding of a seminar in the Pacific region, to be organized by the Special Committee, in 2002.

6. As stated in the guidelines and rules of procedure for the Seminar (A/AC.109/2002/1), the purpose of the Seminar was to assess the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular their constitutional evolution towards self-determination in order to facilitate the development by the Special Committee of a constructive programme of work on a case-by-case basis for the Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Seminar would also identify areas in which the international community could increase and enhance its participation in programmes of assistance and adopt a comprehensive and integrated approach to ensuring the political and sustainable socio-economic development of the Territories concerned.

7. The topics considered by the Seminar will assist the Special Committee and the participants in making an evaluation of the situation in the Non-Self-

Governing Territories. The Seminar gave pre-eminence to a broad range of views of the peoples of those Territories. It also sought to secure the participation of organizations and institutions that are actively involved in the political, economic and social development of those Territories and of selected non-governmental organizations with long and established experience in island Territories.

8. The contributions of the participants served as a basis for the conclusions and recommendations of the Seminar, which will be carefully studied by the Special Committee with a view to submitting proposals to the General Assembly concerning the fulfilment of the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

II. Organization of the Seminar

9. The Seminar was held at Nadi, Fiji, from 14 to 16 May 2002.

10. The Seminar held six meetings in which representatives of States Members of the United Nations, Non-Self-Governing Territories, administering Powers, non-governmental organizations and regional organizations as well as experts took part. The list of participants is given in appendix I. The Seminar was organized to encourage an open and frank exchange of views.

11. The Seminar was conducted by Earl Stephen Huntley, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations and Chairman of the Special Committee, with the participation of the following members of the Special Committee: Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Fiji (host country), Grenada, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia. France (as observer), New Zealand and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (as observer) participated in the Seminar in their capacity as administering Powers. The following States Members of the United Nations also participated in the Seminar: Argentina, Japan (as observer), Morocco and Spain.

12. At the 1st meeting, on 14 May 2002, the following members of the Special Committee were appointed officers of the Seminar: Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué (Côte d'Ivoire), Orlando Requeijo Gual (Cuba) and Vladimir Zaemsky (Russian Federation) as Vice-Chairmen, Fayssal Mekdad (Syrian Arab Republic) as Rapporteur and Chairman of the Drafting Group. The Drafting Group was composed of the representatives of Chile, China, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Fiji, Grenada, Indonesia, Russian Federation, Saint Lucia, Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia.

13. The agenda of the Seminar was as follows:

1. Strategies for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism:

   Action to implement the goals of the Second International Decade including the Plan of Action, as well as the relevant United Nations resolutions.

2. Role of the administering Powers under the Charter of the United Nations and United Nations resolutions related to decolonization:

   (a) Ensuring the development of self-government by the Non-Self-Governing Territories under their administration;

   (b) Developing, in cooperation with the Special Committee on a case-by-case basis, and with the participation of the peoples of the Territories, work programmes aimed at implementing the process of decolonization;

   (c) Cooperating with the Special Committee, and with the participation of the peoples of the Territories, in ensuring the successful and verifiable implementation of work programmes for the Territories.

3. Role of the Special Committee in facilitating the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories:

   (a) Analysis of criteria and indicators of self-government in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions;

   (b) Strengthening and improving cooperation with administering Powers with a view to developing work programmes for the remaining

Non-Self-Governing Territories, on a case-by-case basis;

(c) Monitoring progress in the implementation of United Nations resolutions on decolonization and the agreed work programmes for specific Territories;

(d) Developing education programmes for specific Territories on the options available to them in the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV);

(e) Carrying out visiting missions to the Territories as an important consultation and information-gathering tool to implement the Committee's decolonization mandate;

(f) Promoting the dissemination of information on decolonization and on the role of the United Nations to the populations of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

4. Development strategies for strengthening assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the United Nations system:

(a) Assessing existing mandates and the extent of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories provided by the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes;

(b) Promoting the improvement and increase of the level of assistance to the Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and United Nations programmes.

5. Recent political, legal and economic developments in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular in the Pacific region:

(a) Political, constitutional and legal developments;

(b) Economic and financial situation: impact of globalization on the Non-Self-Governing Territories, in particular on the financial services sector;

(c) Views of the participants on the use of military bases in the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the impact of military activities on the environment, economic development and health of the population;

(d) Concrete steps required in the short, medium and long term, for the achievement of self-determination in the Territories in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

6. Socio-economic and environmental conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories:

(a) Social conditions in the Territories (namely, education, health and labour);

(b) Effects of migration to and from the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

(c) Rights of indigenous peoples;

(d) Land issues;

(e) Protection of the right of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to ownership, control and disposal of their natural wealth and resources, including marine resources pursuant to resolutions of the General Assembly, the Convention on the Law of the Sea and other international conventions;

(f) Environmental and climate issues, including the impact of natural disasters and the need for disaster preparedness.

III. Conduct of the Seminar

A. Proceedings of the Seminar

14. On 14 May, Earl Stephen Huntley (Saint Lucia) opened the Seminar in his capacity as Chairman of the Seminar.

15. The Honourable Kaliopate Tavola, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji, addressed the Seminar. His statement is reproduced in appendix II.

16. At the same meeting, the Chairman of the Special Committee made an opening statement in the course of which he referred to the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights established by the General Assembly in its resolution 2911 (XXVII) of 2 November 1972 (see appendix III).

17. At the same meeting, the Rapporteur of the Special Committee made a statement in the course of which he briefed the participants on the Committee's work since the previous seminar, held in Havana, Cuba, from 23 to 25 May 2001 (see appendix IV).

18. At the same meeting, the Chief of the Decolonization Unit, Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, read out a message from the Secretary-General (see appendix V).

19. At the same meeting, the Seminar observed a minute of silence in memory of Ron Rivera, a champion of the rights of the Chamorro people of Guam who had represented the Territory on numerous occasions before the Special Committee.

20. In view of the fact that the Seminar was taking place on the eve of the Week of Solidarity with Peoples of All Colonial Territories Fighting for Freedom, Independence and Human Rights, some speakers made references to the Week of Solidarity.

21. At its 6th meeting, on 16 May, the Seminar heard a statement by Amraiya Naidu, Permanent Representative of Fiji to the United Nations.

22. At the same meeting, the Chairman made a concluding statement.

23. At the same meeting, the participants adopted by acclamation a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji (see appendix VI).

B. Summary of statements and discussions

Member States

24. The representative of Argentina stated that the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) differed from traditional colonial cases and constituted a special and particular form of colonialism that affected the territorial integrity of the Argentine Republic. He recalled that resolutions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples recognized the existence of a sovereignty dispute between Argentina and the United Kingdom over the Territory which should be solved through bilateral negotiations, bearing in mind the interests of the population of the Islands. He stressed the position of his Government that the existence of the sovereignty dispute ruled out the applicability of the right to self-determination, since it would be unacceptable for British citizens residing in the Territory to decide over a dispute to which their country is a party. He also stated that Argentina had repeatedly expressed its determination to resume negotiations with the United Kingdom and to respect the way of life and interests of the inhabitants of the Islands as enshrined in the Argentine National Constitution. He reiterated his Government's disposition to discuss all schemes that could lead to a final peaceful solution of the sovereignty dispute. Finally he stated that any attempt by the Seminar to recognize any status of the Legislative Council of the Islands would go against the principles and rules governing the work of the Special Committee and the General Assembly resolutions related to the issue.

25. The representative of Grenada stated that there remained 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories for which the Special Committee still had monitoring responsibility, conferred to it by the General Assembly's declaration of the period of 2001-2010 as the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000. In the same resolution, the Assembly had called upon Member States to redouble their efforts to implement the plan of action for the Second International Decade. The administering Powers, under terms of the Charter, accepted as a "sacred trust" the obligation to promote the well-being of the Territories under their administration and were duty-bound to transmit regularly to the Secretary-General information relating to the economic, social and educational conditions in the Territories, until such time as the Non-Self-Governing Territories opted to exercise their right to self-determination, under article 2 of the

Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples.

26. The representative of Indonesia stated that the emergence of independent and sovereign countries from a large number of colonies, among them his own country in the 1940s, lent great impetus to the process of decolonization. For its part, Indonesia's deep and abiding commitment to that objective emanated from the preamble of its 1945 Constitution whereby the Government of Indonesia was to "contribute to an order in the world based upon independence, abiding peace and justice" and since then, it had been a constitutional duty to work towards that end. More than four decades later, that message had been spread successfully as attested to by the near universality of the membership of the United Nations, currently in its fifty-sixth year. The world would soon welcome East Timor into the family of nations. The people and the Government of Indonesia would join the East Timorese in the historic celebrations on 20 May 2002 when East Timor would become a full-fledged sovereign and independent nation and, thereafter, a State Member of the United Nations. There remained 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories that had yet to realize self-determination. However, it was essential that the work of the Special Committee stay within the parameters of its mandate and that the Committee be vigilant regarding the consideration of extraneous issues. It was his delegation's firm belief that the Seminar's deliberations should be guided by that principle so that the Committee would not be distracted from fulfilling its purpose. Therefore, the Special Committee should be dedicated fully and only for advancing the interests and aspirations of the inhabitants of the remaining 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories. Any discussion of incongruent issues was unacceptable and would only lead the Special Committee farther away from its mandated objective.

27. The representative of Morocco stated that, since the beginning of the dispute between Morocco and Algeria on the matter of Western Sahara, his country had demonstrated its preference and its determination for a peaceful solution, even though it considered the recovery of its southern provinces crucial to achieving its territorial integrity. His country, in a gesture of good will and conciliation, had proposed the organization of a referendum on that part of its territory, which had been occupied by Spain and recovered in conformity with international legality. He noted that the only internationally registered claim to the Saharan territory was that of Morocco and that the struggle for the liberation of the Sahara had been led by the Moroccan Liberation Army in the 1950s. The Frente POLISARIO had been created at the eve of the signature of the Madrid Accord, within a specific regional context. Since the inception of that process, and despite the constant and positive contribution of Morocco to overcome the difficulties hampering the implementation of the Settlement Plan for the last 10 years and the willingness of his country to launch a sincere dialogue with the separatists based on generally accepted democratic norms, taking into account the specific features of the region and meeting the needs of its population, Algeria and the Frente POLISARIO continued to categorically reject any discussion on the search of any solution which would guarantee peace and stability in the region. Given the persistent deadlock, the Secretary-General concluded in his report to the Security Council in June 2001 (S/2001/613) that the settlement plan was inapplicable and expressed doubt that the proposed referendum would be held. The Secretary-General also recommended the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara (MINURSO) to give his Personal Envoy time to conduct consultations on the proposed framework agreement on the future status of Western Sahara. He also pointed out that the Secretary-General and his Personal Envoy called upon the parties to engage in constructive consultations on the proposed framework agreement, as it might be the last window of opportunity for years to come. The representative of Morocco urged the Committee to always keep in mind the humanitarian dimension of the problem, namely the fate and future of thousands of refugees who had been forcibly displaced from their homes 25 years before and who lived in precarious conditions in Tindouf camps in Algeria and had not been allowed to return to their families. He concluded by saying that the draft framework agreement constituted an opportunity to design the basis of a just, reasonable and durable solution to the dispute, a political solution that would be based on respect for Morocco's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

28. The representative of New Zealand traced how the United Nations and the administering Power had adapted to a quite atypical decolonization context over the quarter century since the first United Nations visiting mission in 1976. Both parties had recognized in particular that Tokelau, in its special circumstances,

had its own pace. Today, a distinctively Tokelauan governance capacity was developing within its structure based on traditional authority. The Territory's participation in the dialogue with the Special Committee's Working Group in 2001 had given it a positive feeling of being a participant in the decolonization process, not just an adjunct to the administering Power and the United Nations. He concluded by saying that Tokelau and New Zealand were embarking on an across-the-board review of their relationship.

29. The representative of Spain reiterated that the negotiations between his country and the United Kingdom within the Brussels process represented a fulfilment of the repeated recommendations of the United Nations. In addition, the process was welcomed and encouraged by the supreme institutions of the European Union and was in full accordance with international law. He noted that encouraging steps forward were being taken in the aforementioned negotiations, aiming at the achievement of a lasting, stable and guaranteed solution to the question of Gibraltar in accordance with the relevant resolutions, decisions and practices of the United Nations and taking into account all legitimate interests of the population of the Territory. He reiterated the invitation to the Chief Minister of Gibraltar to join forthcoming meetings of the Brussels process.

30. The representative of the United Kingdom stated that her country welcomed the efforts by the Committee, begun under the constructive leadership of the previous Chairman of the Special Committee, to pursue dialogue with the administering Powers and the peoples of the Territories with a view to their possible removal from the Committee's list. Her Government undertook to keep the Committee informed of discussions with certain Overseas Territories as possible candidates for delisting. It updated the Committee on the most recent progress in its relationship with the Overseas Territories. This relationship continued to be based on the principles of self-determination, mutual obligations, freedom for the Territories to run their affairs to the greatest degree possible and commitment from the United Kingdom to help the Territories economically and assist them in emergencies. The United Kingdom considered its relationship with the Overseas Territories a partnership and worked to maximize the opportunities for self-government. It fully respected the unique circumstances in each Territory. The United Kingdom's policy towards the Overseas Territories rested on the basis that the citizens of each Territory determined whether they wished to stay linked to the United Kingdom or not. The United Kingdom had no intention of imposing independence against their will, and had willingly granted independence where it had been requested. The United Kingdom remained firmly committed to the right to self-determination and to those Territories which chose to retain a British connection.

Representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories

31. The representative of American Samoa, while supporting the noble goal of the Special Committee to eradicate colonialism, reiterated his request to the Special Committee to have the Territory removed from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories with which the Committee was concerned and stated that American Samoa wanted to remain a Territory of the United States of America. He provided information on the current socio-economic situation in American Samoa and its high living standards in comparison with other independent States and Territories in the Pacific region. He expressed concern that, although the Committee had appeared to accept American Samoa's position after the Havana Seminar in 2001, he had perceived no positive progress towards that goal. Given that situation, the representative of the Territory wanted to know how the elected representatives of the Territory might help expedite the process.

32. The representative of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) urged the Seminar to recognize the Falkland Islands Legislative Council as the rightful government of the Falkland Islands. He stated that the people of the Falkland Islands had the democratic right to freely determine their status in accordance with General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations.

33. The representative of Gibraltar stated that the people of Gibraltar as colonial people had the right to self-determination and fundamentally also the right to have anachronistic demands that gave preference to land claims over the rights of peoples abandoned as inconsistent with modern times. The right to self-determination of the people of Gibraltar overrode any obligation in the Treaty of Utrecht of 1713 and that

principle was enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, United Nations resolutions and the jurisprudence of the International Court of Justice. The Government of Gibraltar was willing to have the matter adjudicated upon by the International Court of Justice, but the United Kingdom and Spain had refused. The Government of Gibraltar, as the only democratically elected representatives of the people of Gibraltar, had been excluded from the current Anglo-Spanish talks because full and equal participation was being denied to them. His Government believed in dialogue with Spain on an open agenda and in which the people of Gibraltar could participate fully through their Government. The so-called "invitation" to attend the talks from the United Kingdom and Spain was not a genuine invitation given that Gibraltar would not be participating on an equal footing and the United Kingdom and Spain reserved exclusively for themselves the right to reach agreements against the wishes of the Government and people of the Territory. His Government rejected the intention of the United Kingdom and Spain to reach an agreement of non-negotiable principles over Gibraltar against the wishes of the Government and people of Gibraltar. The representative of Gibraltar believed that such an agreement of principles would necessarily predetermine any proposals formulated on the basis of those principles; should it go to a referendum and if those principles were rejected by the people, they would stay on the table as the agreed Anglo-Spanish position in a state of suspended animation. The representative of Gibraltar urged the Committee to adopt recommendations on those matters.

34. The representative of New Caledonia stated that the participation of her Government in the meetings of the Special Committee enabled it to form a clearer understanding of how the United Nations viewed her country and allowed it to present the United Nations with a more comprehensive picture. In the year that had elapsed since the 2001 Havana seminar of the Special Committee, the Government of New Caledonia had given priority to the systematic implementation of the directives contained in the policy statement made by the President on 5 May 2001 before the Congress, on behalf of the consensual government. The Government adopted a comprehensive medical insurance plan that would provide every citizen, on an equal basis, with protection against health hazards; considerable tax incentives had also been implemented to encourage job-generating investments not only in the nickel industry sector but also in the areas of tourism, aquaculture and the food industry; an agreement on cultural development had also been signed with the Government of France. Recent economic projects (such as a nickel and cobalt processing plant and a feasibility study for the construction of a smelting plant) bore witness to investors' confidence in the stability of New Caledonia and the ability of the country's men and women to respond to the challenges they faced. The Fourteenth Melanesian Spearhead Group Summit had been held in Nouméa and the Government of New Caledonia had participated in the thirty-second Pacific Islands Forum, in Nauru. Those meetings had highlighted the marked readiness of the Pacific Island countries to integrate New Caledonia speedily into the life of the region and underlined their ongoing support for the process began by the Nouméa Accord (A/AC.109/2114, annex). In July 2002, New Caledonia would welcome a ministerial delegation from the Pacific Islands Forum on a fact-finding visit in regard to the current situation and implementation of the Nouméa Accord. In conclusion, the representative of New Caledonia stated that she was convinced that New Caledonia was moving in the right direction, towards a common destiny.

35. The representative of the Front de libération nationale kanak socialiste (FLNKS) of New Caledonia stated that his movement acknowledged the efforts of the General Assembly and the work of the Special Committee for having proposed and agreed to declare the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. He stated that, at the dawn of a new millennium, it was inconceivable that there should still be vestiges of colonialism and neo-colonialism. Since New Caledonia had been re-inscribed on the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories by General Assembly resolution 41/41 A in 1986, the close attention of the United Nations to the decolonization process had been a determining factor for the indigenous people struggling for their freedom and independence. The minority Kanak people believed that the support of the States Members of the United Nations had been a central factor in ensuring that France would decide the fate of New Caledonia by taking into account the legitimate rights of the Kanak people and not simply the electoral majority created by the process of colonial settlement. FLNKS sought vigilant monitoring by the United Nations, together with the co-signatories of the Nouméa Accord, to ensure strict adherence to implementation of the Accord. Each element of the

Accord was crucial if the international community was not only to respond to the aspirations of New Caledonians but also to bring about real decolonization for the Kanak people. United Nations should remain vigilant to ensure that the evolving status of New Caledonia would lead to the complete decolonization and full emancipation of the Kanak people.

36. The representative of the Frente Popular para la Liberación de Saguía el-Hamra y del Río de Oro (Frente POLISARIO) stated that the decolonization of Western Sahara had been on the agenda of the United Nations since the 1960s and remained a case in which the credibility of the Organization and its decolonization efforts were being placed in jeopardy. After realizing that if a genuine referendum were to be held, it would favour independence, Morocco had begun obstructing it by all means. The "draft framework agreement", which had been proposed as an alternative to the settlement plan, was an attempt to satisfy Morocco's aspirations and legitimize its illegal occupation. It went against the Charter of the United Nations, its resolutions on Western Sahara and the verdict of the International Court of Justice and departed from the United Nations and the peace plan of the Organization of African Unity. Furthermore, it compromised the inalienable right of the Saharawi people to self-determination and hence contradicted General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV). The peace plan, which was based on the organization of a referendum for self-determination, remained the sole legal and viable framework for reaching a just and lasting resolution to the decolonization process in Western Sahara. The human rights abuses in the occupied areas must be stopped and the Saharawi prisoners-of-war held in Morocco must be accounted for. He requested the Special Committee to send a fact-finding delegation to the occupied areas and the Saharawi refugee camps and report on its findings. He also requested the United Nations to mandate its mission, MINURSO, to monitor the human rights situation in the occupied areas and to stop the illegal exploration and exploitation of the natural resources of Western Sahara. He suggested that the Special Committee continue to stress the decolonization nature of the question of Western Sahara and closely monitor the decolonization process of the last Non-Self-Governing Territory in Africa. He reaffirmed the willingness of his organization to fully cooperate with the United Nations and OAU in their efforts to organize a free and fair referendum to enable the Saharawi people to exercise their inalienable right to self-determination.

37. The representative of Tokelau, the *Ulu-o-Tokelau*, updated the Committee on political, constitutional and economic developments in the Territory through the Modern House of Tokelau project, which had as a goal an interlocking cultural foundation of governance and modern advice that could serve Tokelau better today and tomorrow. He outlined the four components of the project, namely, good governance, capacity/capability development, the "friends of Tokelau" network and sustainable development plans. He reported on the progress of the project, Tokelau's achievements and learning so far, and he shared with the Special Committee Tokelau's plans for the immediate future. He stated that through the process of capacity-building, Tokelau was being informed of its capability to perform effectively some functions, given certain conditions. He stated that the Territory was becoming aware of what it could not possibly do well for itself because of natural limitations. He informed the Committee of the Territory's plan to seek the establishment of a facility in Wellington, with a Tokelauan personality, that would become a means of compensating for capacity shortfalls due to human and skill constraints on the Territory. He urged the Committee to let the Territory explore carefully and consider those arrangements that would ensure stability, harmony and human progress with dignity for his people on Tokelau's journey to self-determination. The *Ulu-o-Tokelau* concluded by requesting continued technical and material support from the Special Committee and the administering Power so that the Territory could carry out its plans on that journey.

38. The representative of the United States Virgin Islands noted that the "dis-connect" existing between the United Nations review process and the elected governments of many Non-Self-Governing Territories resulted in a lack of information on the contemporary United Nations role in decolonization and self-determination. He indicated that the recommendations of the regional seminars should be integrated with the resolutions of the General Assembly and subsequently implemented. He called on the Special Committee to acquire the necessary resources to carry out the required studies and analyses of the plan of action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, for potential collaboration between the Special Committee and the Human Rights Committee

to address self-determination in many of the small island Territories and for similar collaboration with the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat on a programme of dissemination of information on decolonization to the Territories. He also reported on the Yale University School of Law amicus brief filed in a public legal proceedings in the United States Virgin Islands which made a number of findings, including the recognition of the affirmative obligation of States that administer Territories to promote self-determination pursuant to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the awareness that non-self-governing status provided for neither full political nor civil rights and was inconsistent with obligations under contemporary international law; the acknowledgement of the conditions under the three alternatives of integration, free association or independence as essential to the attainment of a full measure of self-government; and the understanding that no external conditions should be imposed if a fair political status process is to be conducted in a territory.

Non-governmental organizations

39. A representative of the Guam Commission on Decolonization (Guam) stated that the decolonization of Guam and the Chamorro people could not be dictated under the sovereignty of the United States. There should be a moratorium on immigration to immediately stop the marginalization of the Chamorro people. Guam should experience self-determination, create its own constitution, its own testament that it consents to a full measure of self-government, at its free expression — not as dictated by a mightier power, not as dissatisfied second-class citizens. The Chamorro people, and all residents of Guam who would declare Guam their home, must be afforded a fully supported education outreach to discuss the issue of decolonization. Guam needed the full support of the United Nations, as is the obligation of the administering Power, to empower the Chamorro people to make decisions regarding their future, to understand the self-determination and decolonization process and the various political status options, and to draft their own constitution. The people of Guam needed to be fully involved in the reorganizing of their government, in the governing of Guam, in preparation for the future, as sovereign as the other nations and peoples of the world.

40. A representative of Strength and Force of Chamorro Women, a non-governmental organization from Guam, stated that not much had changed in the situation of Guam for the preceding 20 years aside from the administering Power's disregard for the process of decolonization and its control of one third of the island for military purposes. The administering Power's policy on immigration had unnaturally increased Guam's population growth rate while diminishing significantly its social, economic, cultural and political institutions.

41. A representative of the World Council of Churches/Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, a non-governmental organization, recalled the statement of the World Council of Churches and Society Conference in 1966 that the United Nations was the best structure available through which to pursue the goals of international peace and justice. Like all institutions, it was not sacrosanct and many changes were necessary in its Charter to meet the needs of the world today, but it had to be defended against all attacks that would weaken or destroy it and it had to seek out and advocate ways in which it could be transformed into an instrument fully capable of ensuring peace and guaranteeing justice on a worldwide scale. In conclusion, he stated that in the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the World Council of Churches and its Commission of the Churches on International Affairs pledged its continuing support and partnership both to the United Nations and the Special Committee.

42. A representative of the Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Inc., a non-governmental organization from the Pacific region, emphasized that the legacy of colonialism was a significant feature in the region and that memories of racism and discrimination remained fresh in the minds of people. Her organization continued to stand in solidarity with all colonized peoples in their struggle against colonialism. She also stressed that the implementation of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism needed serious political commitment on the part of the Special Committee in order to coordinate a meaningful process of decolonization based on the aspirations of colonized peoples.

43. A representative of the Pitcairn Islands Study Center, a non-governmental organization from the United States, presented the views of his organization

on the ways and means to ensure the viability of Pitcairn as a unique Non-Self-Governing Territory and highlighted current issues which needed urgent assistance on the part of the international community and the Special Committee.

Experts

44. Experts presented papers dealing with questions and issues proposed by the Special Committee, as reflected above. The experts discussed in detail the political, economic and social development of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, with particular emphasis on the conditions in the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories in the Pacific region. The experts maintained the following:

(a) The current stage of the decolonization process highlights the need for solutions to the difficulties encountered by the Non-Self-Governing Territories and the administering Powers to be adapted to the special circumstance of each of the 16 Territories; the differences in each case are as great as the commonalities;

(b) An approach based on the needs of the Territory following the directions indicated by the people will respond well to the emphasis on self-government and self-determination;

(c) An investigation into an autochthonous approach may be rewarding in many cases;

(d) The activities of the Special Committee's Working Group on case-by-case individual programmes of work for each Territory are well adapted to facilitating the territory-by-territory approach and provide a useful vehicle for stimulating the dialogue now needed. The case-by-case method also requires greater exploration of the great range of possibilities for a Territory's future that lie within the free association option and the integration option in particular; a concerted effort should be made to identify those aspects of the current situation that correspond with the self-determination futures and to adapt as appropriate private law analogies to meet the specific challenges of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism;

(e) There is a crucial connection between environment and development for small island developing States in the Pacific;

(f) Some policies of the administering P adversely affect the political, economic and structures of the Non-Self-Governing Terri including the transport of radioactive and haza wastes through island exclusive economic zone fishing grounds;

(g) The programmes of assistance direct the Territories should take into account climate c and global warming factors;

(h) The impact of military bases and oper in the Territories should be further investigated.

45. The experts from Saint Helena and Pitcairn were also elected officials in their resp Territories, provided unique perspectives on the of concern to their communities:

(a) With regard to Saint Helena, it was that the current situation, where depopulatio economic decline linked to falling budgetary assi threatened the future well-being of the island, cou be allowed to continue; it was vital for imp access and inward investment to be developed, a that the island would require ongoing assistance the administering Power; the continuing spi economic decline and offshore migration present prospect of a bleak future unless the patter checked and reversed. It was hoped that the visit independent constitutional adviser later in 2002 offer a unifying platform for the administering to work with the people of Saint Helena to dev way forward constitutionally to the exercise people's right to self-determination in the cont the relevant General Assembly resolutions;

(b) With regard to Pitcairn, it was noted th lack of information from the administering Pow from the United Nations regarding the o available for the inhabitants of that unique Te was a serious impediment to the exercise of thei to self-determination and development. It wa noted that, despite the current serious economi other infrastructure problems, the Territory potential for the development and rehabilitatio viable community on Pitcairn.

IV. Conclusions and recommendations

46. At its 6th meeting, held on 16 May 2002, the Seminar adopted the following conclusions and recommendations:

Eradicating colonialism

1. The participants at the Seminar strongly supported the statement of the Secretary-General of the United Nations in his message to the Seminar (see appendix V) that there should be no room for colonialism in the twenty-first century, and that all efforts should be made to close that chapter of history once and for all.

2. The participants welcomed the accession to independence of East Timor on 20 May 2002 and expressed the hope that that momentous event would further strengthen the resolve of the international community to ensure the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories.

3. The United Nations has a valid ongoing role in the process of decolonization. The mandate of the Special Committee is a major political programme of the United Nations.

4. The Seminar reaffirms that the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism is an important political framework for continued efforts in support of the process of decolonization and the role of the United Nations in such a process. The participants called for the full implementation of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism (A/56/61, annex).

5. The Seminar recommends that the Special Committee, the administering Powers and the Non-Self-Governing Territories engage in constructive discussions to expedite the implementation of the goals of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism as contained in General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000.

Right to self-determination

6. The implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) is not complete as long as there remain Non-Self-Governing Territories that have yet to exercise their right to self-determination.

7. As long as the administering Powers exercise unilateral authority to make laws and other regulations affecting the Non-Self-Governing Territories without their consent, pursuant to such methods as legislation, orders in council and other methods, a Territory should not be considered self-governing.

8. In this process of decolonization, there is no alternative to the principle of self-determination, which is also a fundamental human right. All available options for self-determination are valid as long as they are in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the peoples concerned and in conformity with the clearly defined principles contained in the Charter of the United Nations, and as enunciated in General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions.

9. Specific characteristics of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories should in no way prevent their populations from exercising their inalienable right to self-determination in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

10. Any attempt aimed at the partial or total disruption of the national unity and the territorial integrity of a country is incompatible with the purposes and principles of the Charter.

11. The views of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in respect of their right to self-determination should be ascertained under the supervision of the United Nations.

12. The participants expressed the view that, as long as there are Non-Self-Governing Territories, the inalienable rights of the peoples of those Territories must be guaranteed by the United Nations and the Special Committee in conformity

with the Charter of the United Nations and General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV).

13. While the international community must remain flexible in its approach to assisting the Non-Self-Governing Territories in their constitutional advancement, efforts should be made to guarantee their advancement in conformity with the acceptable choices contained in General Assembly resolution 1541 (XV).

14. All efforts should be made by Member States, when presenting draft resolutions on decolonization to the General Assembly, to take into account the views, as appropriate, of the people of the Territories concerned.

Role of the Special Committee

15. The Special Committee should continue to actively participate in monitoring and observing the evolution of the Non-Self-Governing Territories towards self-determination, as well as to certify to the General Assembly the compliance of this process with the norms and practices of the United Nations.

16. In the current stage of global development, there is still a need for identifying and implementing innovative practical and pragmatic approaches in the search for a specific solution for each of the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories in accordance with the freely expressed wishes of the populations concerned and in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) and 1541 (XV) and other relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

17. The informal negotiations between the Special Committee and the administering Powers to create a work programme on a case-by-case basis for the decolonization of the Non-Self-Governing Territories should be expedited with the active involvement of the representatives of the Territories, and other interested parties, where appropriate.

18. The Seminar urges the Special Committee to initiate action to implement the programme of work it prepared regarding the situation in the Territories and thus take a further step forward in implementing its mandate. It urges the administering Powers to cooperate with the Special Committee in such an endeavour.

19. The participants note that, in the development of work programmes for individual Territories, the participation of representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in which there is no dispute over sovereignty should be ensured. They also point out that any work programme should include an information and education campaign for the peoples of said Territories, visiting missions of the Special Committee to ascertain the situation in those Territories first-hand and a consultation process acceptable to the peoples in those Territories leading to the exercise of their right to self-determination in accordance with United Nations resolutions.

20. The participants recall paragraph 22 of the plan of action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, which states that the Special Committee should: (a) prepare periodic analyses of the progress and extent of the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples in each Territory; and (b) review the impact of the economic and social situation on the constitutional and political advancement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories; and the necessary resources should be made available, if so required, for the conduct of such studies and reviews.

21. The Seminar takes note of the initiation of discussions between the Special Committee and the administering Powers of American Samoa and Pitcairn with a view to developing work programmes for the Territories with the participation and agreement of the representatives of the peoples of those Territories.

Public awareness/information campaigns

22. Continued examination of the spectrum of options for self-determination by all parties concerned and dissemination of relevant information among the peoples of the Non-Self-

Governing Territories are important elements in achieving the goals of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples and the plan of action.

23. The participants affirmed the need for the Special Committee to actively embark on a public awareness campaign aimed at fostering an understanding among the people of the Territories of the options for self-determination included in the relevant United Nations resolutions on decolonization, especially within the context of developing programmes of work for specific Territories.

24. The Seminar recommended that the Special Committee, in conjunction with the Department of Public Information and other relevant United Nations bodies, develop a programme to disseminate information and raise public awareness in the Territories in order to heighten people's understanding of the legitimate political status options available to them in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions, including the 1960 Declaration, and bearing in mind the successful programmes in this vein undertaken for the former trust territories.

25. The participants welcomed the establishment of a decolonization web page and requested the Department of Political Affairs and the Department of Public Information of the Secretariat to update the web page regularly and to use that tool to intensify the dissemination of information on the activities of the United Nations in decolonization, with a view to raising the awareness of the people about their political rights and the options available to them in determining their political status. The Department of Public Information should use all means of communication, including radio, television and publications, to promote the cause of decolonization.

26. United Nations information centres should be directed to disseminate information on decolonization to the Territories and to the administering Powers.

27. The participants encourage the United Nations to assist those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are granted observer status in United Nations world conferences and special sessions of the General Assembly by facilitating the dissemination of information to those Territories regarding the respective sessions.

28. Noting the need for more information to be submitted to the Secretary-General under Article 73*e* of the Charter, the Seminar called for the continued use of the comprehensive questionnaire detailing the specific areas of economic, social and political development on which information should be furnished.

Visiting missions

29. The participants confirmed the need to dispatch periodic visiting missions to the Non-Self-Governing Territories with the aim of assessing the situation in those Territories and of ascertaining the wishes and aspirations of the peoples thereof regarding their future status and called on the administering Powers to cooperate in facilitating such visiting missions. They noted the numerous requests made at the Seminar from representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories for visiting missions to be undertaken as soon as possible.

Cooperation with and assistance from agencies of the United Nations system

30. The participants supported closer cooperation between the Special Committee and the Economic and Social Council in order to promote increased United Nations assistance in the economic and social sphere to the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

31. Subject to approval by the Economic and Social Council, Non-Self-Governing Territories should be given access to relevant United Nations programmes in the economic and social sphere, including those emanating from the plans of action of United Nations world conferences, in furtherance of capacity-building and consistent with the necessary preparation for the attainment of a full measure of internal self-government.

32. The Seminar stressed that the Special Committee should continue to explore ways to

strengthen existing measures of support and formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories and seek concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions by the specialized agencies as detailed in the provisions of the General Assembly resolution 56/67 of 10 December 2001.

33. The participants urged the Special Committee to solicit assistance of the Economic and Social Council regarding the implementation of Council resolution 2001/28 of 26 July 2001 on the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations.

34. The participants recognized the vulnerability of small island Non-Self-Governing Territories, which require special consideration and remedies.

35. The participants were appreciative of the success of the special session of the General Assembly on children and stressed that the special needs of children in Non-Self-Governing Territories should be addressed when implementing the guidelines of the final document of the special session.

36. The Seminar reiterated its support for the current participation of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant regional commissions of the United Nations and in specialized agencies of the United Nations and called for the increased involvement of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in programmes and activities of the United Nations system in furtherance of the decolonization process subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with the relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including General Assembly and Special Committee resolutions and decisions on specific Territories.

37. The participants request those members of the Special Committee that are members of the Economic and Social Council to support the inclusion of those Non-Self-Governing Territories which are associate members of United Nations regional commissions as observers in the Council pursuant to the relevant resolution of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council.

Developments in Non-Self-Governing Territories

38. The participants express concern over the military installations and activities of the administering Powers in Non-Self-Governing Territories, which run counter to the rights and interests of the people concerned and which create serious health and environmental hazards and request the Special Committee to address this issue in an appropriate manner, including a call for the removal of such installations. In addition, the participants propose the provision of alternative sources of livelihood for the peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories.

39. The participants welcomed the participation in the Seminar of the Chairman of the Public Health and Social Services Committee of St. Helena, who participated in her personal capacity as an expert, and reiterated their support for the establishment of a secure, healthy and sustainable social, economic and political environment for the future of St. Helena. The participants noted the latest developments regarding constitutional changes in St. Helena and looked forward to cooperation between the administering Power and the people of St. Helena on the process leading towards constitutional advancement of the territory.

40. The participants welcomed the presence for the first time of the Mayor of Pitcairn, who participated in his personal capacity as an expert. They took note of the economic and social problems faced by the population of the Island and of the action taken by the administering Power to meet needs of the people of Pitcairn and expressed the hope that those needs would continue to be given full consideration. Furthermore, they encouraged the administering Power to involve the representatives of the people of Pitcairn in any forthcoming discussion on the future of the Territory to the greatest degree possible.

41. The participants took note of the statement made by the Lieutenant Governor of American Samoa at the Seminar. The participants urged the administering Power to expedite plans to examine the case of American Samoa in order to further the programme of work in cooperation with the Special Committee. They reaffirmed the need for the Special Committee to conduct urgent contacts with the Governor, the President of the Senate and Senators, the Speaker of the House and representatives of the Legislature, and the Congressman and other community leaders and other representatives of the Territory and the administering Power with the aim of implementing the positions adopted by the Special Committee in compliance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

42. The Special Committee should continue to encourage the resumption of negotiations between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom, with the aim of finding a solution to the question of the Falkland Islands (Malvinas) and taking into consideration the interests of the population of the Territory, in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

43. The Special Committee should continue to encourage the ongoing negotiations between the Governments of the United Kingdom and Spain within the Brussels process, aimed at achieving a solution to the question of Gibraltar in accordance with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

44. The Seminar, while recognizing the significant developments that have taken place in New Caledonia, mainly the signing of the Nouméa Accord on 5 May 1998 between representatives of the political forces of New Caledonia and the Government of France, takes the view that the United Nations should continue to watch closely and keep under review the process unfolding in the Territory. The Seminar has considered the different points of view expressed by the participants about compliance with the provisions of the Accord and urges the concerned parties to implement the provisions of the Accord in a spirit of harmony and cooperation. The Seminar recalls the visit to New Caledonia by a delegation of representatives to the United Nations in 1999 and recommends that those missions visit the Territory regularly during the transition period.

45. The participants recommend that the Special Committee call upon the United States, as the administering Power for Guam, to work with Guam's Commission on Decolonization for the Implementation and Exercise of Chamorro Self-determination with a view to facilitating the decolonization of Guam and to keep the Secretary-General informed of progress to that end.

46. The Special Committee should request the administering Power for Guam, in cooperation with the territorial Government, to continue to transfer land to the original landowners of the Territory. The Special Committee should also request the administering Power to promote the Government of Guam's Chamorro Land Trust Commission programmes for the Chamorro people.

47. The United Nations should further request the administering Power for Guam to continue to recognize and respect the political rights and the cultural and ethnic identity of the Chamorro people of Guam, and to take all necessary measures to respond to the concerns of the territorial Government with regard to the immigration issue.

48. The Seminar called upon the administering Power to cooperate with the Government of Guam to develop and promote political education for the indigenous people of Guam, the Chamorros, on their right to self-determination.

49. The participants called upon the Special Committee to engage the administering Power and the representatives of the Territory with a view to developing a specific work programme for Guam.

50. The Seminar notes with satisfaction the positive constitutional developments in the Territory of Tokelau. The relationship between Tokelau and its administering Power, New Zealand, has been conducive to the increased level of internal self-government and the enactment of territorial legislation, bringing the

people of Tokelau closer to the exercise of the right to self-determination.

51. The Seminar notes the Territory's plan to seek the establishment of a facility, with a Tokelauan personality, in Wellington, New Zealand, which will become a means of meeting the needs for expertise not currently available in the Territory.

52. The Seminar also notes with satisfaction the substantial work being carried out by Tokelau to establish a governance structure through the Modern House of Tokelau project that will enable Tokelau to maintain its unique identity and respond to the challenges of the new century. It acknowledged the collaborative basis on which that project was being undertaken with the administering Power. Furthermore, the Seminar notes with appreciation the draft work programme for Tokelau prepared collaboratively with the Administrator and the *Ulu-o-Tokelau* and urged the parties concerned to carry out the necessary discussions to finalize the work programme and adopt it as a guideline for future action by the Special Committee on Tokelau.

53. With regard to Western Sahara, the Seminar urges the two parties to continue, under the auspices of the Secretary-General's Personal Envoy, to try to resolve the multiple problems relating to the implementation of the settlement plan and try to agree upon a mutually acceptable political solution to their dispute over Western Sahara.

Administering Powers and other States Members of the United Nations

54. The Special Committee should note with satisfaction the cooperation of France and New Zealand in the process of decolonization and welcome their presence at Special Committee meetings. The participants reiterate their call upon other administering Powers to engage the Special Committee in constructive dialogue in future.

55. The participants welcome the presence as an observer at the Seminar, of the representative of the United Kingdom. They also welcome the statement of the representative of the United Kingdom regarding its intention to continue to engage with the Special Committee, with a view to enhancing cooperation.

56. The Special Committee should express its appreciation to Argentina, Japan (as an observer), Morocco and Spain for their active participation in the Seminar and encourage other Member States to continue to cooperate with the Special Committee.

Role of the regional seminars

57. As activities of the International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, the regional seminars serve as an effective forum for focused discussion on matters of concern to the Non-Self-Governing Territories and afford opportunities for representatives of the peoples of the Territories to present their views and recommendations to the Special Committee.

58. The regional nature of the seminars, alternating between the Caribbean and the Pacific, is a crucial element in their success. The administering Powers should be urged to facilitate the participation of the elected representatives of the Non-Self-Governing Territories in the seminars and in sessions of the Special Committee and the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in conformity with the relevant resolutions and decisions of the United Nations.

59. The Seminar recommended that the Special Committee integrate, to the extent possible, the recommendations of the regional seminars into its relevant resolutions on decolonization, as those recommendations are important expressions of the will of the people of the Territories.

60. The Special Committee should adopt the report of the Pacific Regional Seminar and include it in its report to the General Assembly, as it did with the report of the Caribbean Regional Seminar, in Havana in 2001.

61. The participants emphasized the desirability of holding future seminars in the Non-Self-Governing Territories with a view to educating

the respective peoples in those Territories regarding the aims and objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. Furthermore, they emphasized that such seminars would reflect in more precise ways the feelings and aspirations of the peoples of those Territories. The administering Powers are called upon to facilitate the holding of future seminars in the Non-Self-Governing Territories.

62. The Seminar reiterates the importance of the conclusions and recommendations adopted at the previous regional seminars held in Vanuatu (1990) and Barbados (1990), Grenada (1992), Papua New Guinea (1993 and 1996), Trinidad and Tobago (1995), Antigua and Barbuda (1997), Fiji (1998), Saint Lucia (1999) the Marshall Islands (2000) and Cuba (2001).

47. At the same meeting, the participants adopted a resolution expressing appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji.

Notes

[a] At present the list of Territories with which the Special Committee is concerned and to which the Declaration is applicable includes American Samoa, Anguilla, Bermuda, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), Gibraltar, Guam, Montserrat, New Caledonia, Pitcairn, Saint Helena, Tokelau, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands and Western Sahara.

[b] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 23* (A/56/23).

Appendix I

List of participants

Official delegation of the Special Committee

Saint Lucia	Earl Stephen Huntley Chairman of the Special Committee
Chile	Cristian Streeter Member of the Special Committee
China	Sun Jiwen Member of the Special Committee
Côte d'Ivoire	Bernard Tanoh-Boutchoué Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee
Cuba	Orlando Requeijo Gual Vice-Chairman of the Special Committee
Grenada	Lamuel Stanislaus Member of the Special Committee
Russian Federation	Vladimir Zaemsky Member of the Special Committee
Syrian Arab Republic	Fayssal Mekdad Rapporteur of the Special Committee
Tunisia	Kais Kabtani Member of the Special Committee

States Members of the United Nations

Argentina	Carlos Hernandez
Chile*	Antonio Cousiño
Fiji* (host country)	Amraiya Naidu Ross Ligairi Judy Harm Nam
Indonesia*	Bamdang Hiendrasto Sunarbowo Sandi Dupito Simamora
Japan (observer)	Akiko Isobe
Morocco	Youssef Amrani Hassana Maoulainine Abderrahman Leibek
Saint Lucia*	Michelle Joseph
Spain	Javier Garcia-Larrache

* Member of the Special Committee.

Administering Powers

France (observer)	Jean-Pierre Vidon
New Zealand	Lindsay Watt
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Assuntina Falzarano

Representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories

American Samoa	Togiola Tulafono Alapati Fano
Falkland Islands (Malvinas)	Richard Cockwell
Gibraltar	Keith Azopardi Ernest Montado Perry Stieglitz
New Caledonia	Déwé Gorodey Charles Wea *FLNKS* Charles Washetine
Tokelau	Faipule Pio Tuia Aleki Silao Lise Hope Suveinakama
United States Virgin Islands	Carlyle Corbin
Western Sahara	Kamal Fadel

Experts

Anthony H. Angelo (New Zealand)

Steve Christian (Pitcairn)

John Connell (Australia)

Margaret A. C. Hopkins (St. Helena)

Nic Maclellan (Australia)

Non-governmental and other organizations

Guam Commission on Decolonization (Guam)	Patricia Garrido
Pacific Concerns Resource Centre, Inc. (Fiji)	Motarilavoa Hilda Lini
Pitcairn Islands Study Center (United States)	Herbert Ford
World Council of Churches — Commission on International Affairs (Tonga)	Lopeti Senituli
Strength and Force of Chamorro Women (Guam)	Debtralynne K. Quinata

Programmes, funds and specialized agencies of the United Nations

International Labour Organization	A. M. Zakaria
United Nations Development Programme	Yuxue Xue
United Nations Fund for Population Activities	Catherine Shevlin Pierce
World Health Organization	Michael O'Leary

Appendix II

Statement by the Honourable Kaliopate Tavola, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji

As a mark of Fiji's deep respect for the rights of people to exercise self-determination, and our commitment to the issue of decolonization, we readily offered our land and country as the venue for this seminar.

Our national anthem speaks of our land of freedom, hope and glory. We are totally committed to living up to these fine virtues. I might add that we are also committed to bringing peace and independence where these are needed.

Your presence in Fiji today is most gratifying for us, especially as we embark on the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. We have witnessed, with great satisfaction, the changing landscape of the independent world due to the progress of the decolonization process since the inception of the United Nations. However, we should not rest on our laurels.

Together, we have the shared resolve to accelerate the momentum of the decolonization process compared with that achieved during the First Decade.

It is a fitting recognition to this seminar that the people of East Timor will be independent on 20 May, next week. That historic event is the culmination of successful general elections, of the dedicated efforts of the transitional government by the Constituent Assembly of East Timor, of the promulgation of their new Constitution, and the election thereunder of President-elect Xanana Gusmao.

I am, as a matter of fact, one of the privileged ones who will be present at the independence celebrations next week. My Permanent Secretary and I will be joining the people and Government of East Timor in Dili to celebrate that historic event.

My gratitude of course goes to the Government of New Zealand for inviting us to join their delegation, and their offer of seats on one of their air force planes, which will be taking us to Dili.

As a result of these events, and in full confidence that independence will be achieved next week, the General Assembly, as you know, has adopted by consensus the resolution on the question of East Timor. The Assembly has thus effectively decided to remove East Timor from the list of Non-Self-Governing Territories upon its accession to independence. This accomplishment is a tribute to the dedicated work of the Special Committee. The contribution of the respective Governments in this matter is a single most important factor in this world-changing and epoch-making process. Fiji congratulates you all as representatives of your governments in the Special Committee.

I take this opportunity also to commend you for your continued focus on the remaining Territories on the Special Committee's list. In particular, we are heartened by your efforts to keep alive the aspirations of the peoples in these Territories in their quest for independence. These Territories are predominantly in the Caribbean and Pacific regions.

I can say with certainty that this seminar gives real hope to the Pacific peoples that the United Nations is engaged in dialogue with administering States in search for some lasting solutions.

In these deliberations, Fiji stands ready to assist in every way possible, if and when our assistance is needed.

Fiji acknowledges the commitments made by some administering States and the progress of the action programmes in their respective Territories. As a result of these commitments, forward movements are obviously taking place. However, we appreciate that not "one size fits all" is relevant in this task.

Mindful of the delicate sensitivities that are inevitable in any decolonization negotiation, Fiji continues to urge the parties to push ahead and achieve the end of decolonization early, rather than late in the second Decade.

As a long advocate for decolonization and independence, particularly for peoples in the Pacific region, Fiji reiterates its continuing interest in the progress thus far achieved for the Kanak people in New Caledonia under the Matignon and Nouméa Accords. We commend especially the fact that a climate of peace and amicable cooperation has reigned during this political process. Already, the Kanak leadership has been able to participate meaningfully in their own right in various regional initiatives, including, for the first time, as host of the South Pacific Festival of Arts, Chairman of the Melanesian Spearhead Group and host of the Group's Summit. Other activities give credibility to New Caledonian institutions, their workings and the implementation of the Nouméa Accord.

I was in New Caledonia just over two weeks ago, with a 16-member Fiji trade mission, which, I must say, was very successful indeed. I did recognize then, and I still do today, the useful role contributed to that success by the Kanak leadership.

The Pacific Island Forum leaders have maintained a keen interest in decolonization issues in our region. Since close cooperation with the United Nations has now been established, and in view of the positive interconnectedness that subregional progress on decolonization will generate regionally and globally, Fiji hopes that this Pacific Regional Seminar on Decolonization will abundantly bear fruit on this item and on other agenda items that are closely interwoven.

The majority of the Non-Self-Governing Territories on the Special Committee's list are in the Pacific and Caribbean regions, as I stated earlier. Each has its merits as well as distinct constraints in the path to decolonization. Individual work programmes for each Territory may provide the ideal agreed platform for the parties to work out their mutual path to complete decolonization. In that regard, I recognize that two open-ended informal working groups under the aegis of the Special Committee were established to pursue in earnest the process in those Territories. One of them has been assigned the responsibility for the Caribbean Territories and the other for the Pacific and other Territories. The groups have been liaising and working in close consultation and cooperation with the respective administering Powers and the peoples of those Territories.

Informally, this is the basis for work in respect of Tokelau and for initial discussions on a similar work programme for Guam. May I submit that these initiatives could be formalized and strengthened as a strategy that will catalyse the entire process.

Finally, I take this opportunity to give positive acclaim to the Outcomes of the special session of the General Assembly on children, which concluded successfully in New York last week. As children are our future, they are most definitely our

present as well. As you deliberate, I propose that this seminar keep in focus the aspirations of the world's children. Where there is no independence, the future of our children is bleak. Indeed, their very presence must be cause for grave concern to leaders, as is well captured by the Millennium Summit, and is now formulated in the Millennium Development Goals. Member States are obligated under these global initiatives to deliver results accordingly.

For our part here in Nadi this week, in this small corner of the vast Pacific Ocean, we can reaffirm that independence is a path to ensuring the future sustainability of generations to come. We can also reaffirm our solidarity with those whose very existence we are addressing this week.

I wish you all a very meaningful and productive meeting.

Appendix III

Statement by Earl Stephen Huntley, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations, Chairman of the Special Committee

I wish to thank Mr. Kaliopate Tavola, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, for the warm welcome he has extended to all of us as we begin the proceedings of the 2002 Pacific Regional Seminar. On behalf of all the members of the Special Committee, I wish to thank the Government and the people of Fiji for generously hosting the first Pacific regional seminar of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism to review the political, economic and social conditions in the Non-Self-Governing Territories. At this inaugural meeting, I should also like to draw your attention to the observance of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of Non-Self-Governing Territories. The Week of Solidarity, scheduled to begin on 25 May, is an expression of support by the international community for the peoples in the Territories and a celebration of their achievements.

As a member of the Special Committee, Fiji makes an important contribution to the work of the Committee and is a steadfast and respected voice in promoting the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples. Fiji's principled support for the cause of decolonization is also made evident given the presence of its Minister for Foreign Affairs at this ceremony and by the fact that this is the second time in four years that Fiji hosts a Pacific regional seminar. I wish, therefore, on behalf of the members of the Committee, to reiterate our tribute to the Government and people of Fiji for their profound commitment to the cause of decolonization and, more generally, to the fundamental principles of justice, equal rights and self-determination of peoples which the United Nations has pledged to uphold.

I am pleased to welcome to this seminar representatives from the Non-Self-Governing Territories as well as experts and non-governmental organizations. The participation of each and every one of you is important to the Committee's effective discharge of its responsibilities. The Committee needs the information you provide regarding the situation in the Territories and it welcomes your ideas and proposals regarding ways to achieve the objectives of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism. I want you to see the Committee as a friend, prepared and committed to work with you and on your behalf to attain the rights that are indisputably yours.

I am also pleased to welcome representatives of Member States, in particular of the administering Powers. Their cooperation is essential for the Committee to be able to fulfil its mandate. The renewed dialogue with the administering Powers begun under the chairmanship of Peter Donigi should continue and intensify. However, thus far, the Committee has only been able to move forward in its discussions with New Zealand about developing a work programme for Tokelau. Consultations with other administering Powers has yet to result in concrete advances in developing a programme of work for specific Territories that have been agreed upon or in identifying the Territories that will be the subject of discussion between the Committee and the administering Power.

I should like on this occasion to renew the Committee's invitation to the administering Powers to participate in its activities and to resume consultations with a view to taking steps to develop programmes of work for the specific Territories identified and agreed to with the Special Committee. As we enter this new age, it is time to change attitudes, to stop seeing the Committee as a foe to be obstructed. As members of the same international organization, the United Nations, it is incumbent upon us to make our Organization successful; this can redound in our benefit.

I would like to point out that, at this seminar, we have for the first time ever, a representative of Pitcairn, the smallest and most remote island Territory. Only two years ago, we had a representative of St. Helena for the first time, I am glad to see that, this year, a representative of St. Helena is again in our midst. Their presence at our seminar, despite the considerable difficulties of transport, attests to their desire to draw our attention to the issues that are of importance to their respective Territories and of the efforts of the Committee to reach out to the peoples in the Territories in order to learn about their day-to-day concerns and problems and their aspirations for the future.

Many of these Territories face similar problems given their small size, their geographical remoteness in some instances, their scarce resources and their vulnerability to natural disasters. There is much in the experience of those attending this seminar that should prove invaluable not only to the Committee but to the participants from the Territories who will undoubtedly take advantage of the opportunity to exchange views and share common experiences and ways to handle similar problems with colleagues, counterparts from the other Territories and experts.

We are grateful that you have joined us here for what promises to be an interesting and fruitful discussion. The agenda of the Seminar is wide-ranging in order to accommodate all aspects of the situation in the Territories. We are looking forward to hearing your presentations, questions and answers and exchange of views. And equally important, we are looking forward to the recommendations you may wish to propose for the Committee's consideration with a view to attaining the goals set out in the Plan of Action of the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

As I said when I assumed the chairmanship of this Committee earlier this year, there must not be a third International Decade to Eradicate Colonialism. Let us all work together to ensure this.

Appendix IV

Statement by the Rapporteur of the Special Committee

In my capacity as Rapporteur of the Special Committee, I should like to brief you about the work the Committee has carried out since we last met for the Caribbean Regional Seminar, held in Havana in 2001. I shall be very, very brief, as we are all looking forward to hearing the presentations of the participants and the discussions that will ensue.

As you know, the Havana Seminar was a resounding success and the Committee felt greatly encouraged by the enthusiastic participation of the territorial Governments at the highest levels as well as by the attendance of a record number of Member States, experts and non-governmental organizations concerned with the question of decolonization.

The presence of the representative of the United Kingdom as an observer at the Seminar was also noteworthy and the overwhelming majority of participants took note with satisfaction of such a presence and expressed the hope that the United Kingdom would continue to attend in the future. I should also like to point out that the representative of France also attended the Seminar and that France, the administering Power for New Caledonia, has attended several regional seminars side by side with the representatives of the Territory.

We are gratified to note at this meeting that France and the United Kingdom are once again present.

We are also pleased to welcome the representative of New Zealand, an administering Power whose exemplary cooperation has facilitated the work of the Committee and is now involved, together with the representatives of Tokelau in developing a work programme for Tokelau.

Last year, on the occasion of the June session of the Special Committee, the delegations of New Zealand and Tokelau met with the working group for the Pacific region, chaired by Peter Donigi of Papua New Guinea. At that meeting, the working group had an informative exchange of views and took the first steps towards developing a programme of work for Tokelau.

The atmosphere of the meeting and the face-to-face contact between the Special Committee and the delegations of New Zealand and Tokelau marked the beginning of a new stage in the consideration of this matter by the Committee. The frank and candid discussions went a long way towards dispelling some misconceptions as to the nature of our discussions and its purposes while allowing all sides to clarify and expand on issues that are encapsulated in the language of resolutions or in the headings of the generic work programme the Special Committee adopted informally in March 2000 and which is serving as the indicator and reference document for our discussions and the development of specific work programmes. Of particular significance for the Committee, were the statements by the representatives of the people of Tokelau, who told us that the working meetings with the Special Committee had succeeded in giving it a "human face". The Tokelau delegation pointed out that sitting across the table, talking with the interlocutors of the Special Committee, gave them a sense that Committee members were people who responded to their concerns and reassured them that the pace of the process

they were engaged in would be flexible and would accommodate their needs and the particular characteristics of the Territory.

A draft working paper was then prepared, roughly following the format of the generic work programme, but adapted to the case of Tokelau. The response of the administering Power has been received by the Special Committee and has been distributed to the members of the Committee for future review.

The Special Committee expects that further discussions will be held at the forthcoming session of the Committee.

If we look at the generic programme of work, we will see that activities 1 and 2 refer to the objectives of work coordination and the attainment of a greater understanding of the situation facing the Territory.

These are basic steps that allow us to agree on the modalities of our consultations and on development targets. Regarding the briefing and the exchange of views that will enable the Committee to gain a greater understanding of the situation in Tokelau or any of the Territories identified for which work programmes will be developed, there is some preliminary thinking as to the various ways in which the Committee will carry out its analysis of the situation and the type of information it will require as well as the manner in which the information will be presented. The Committee has the working papers prepared by the Secretariat. These by their very nature are not analytical studies and they were not meant to be.

They present factual information. We will be tapping the collective wisdom of this Seminar and welcome suggestions from the participants, including the representatives of the Territories, the administering Powers and the experts, academics and non-governmental organizations represented here.

As you know, the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism envisages that the Committee will carry out an analysis of the progress achieved by the Non-Self-Governing Territories and of the impact that the socio-economic situation has had on their march towards self-government. Such activities are particularly relevant in the context of developing a programme of work and the implementation of such a programme.

Information campaigns are also mentioned in the Plan of Action as one of the activities to be carried out in the Territories regarding the options available to them. This is also a very important aspect of the steps outlined in the generic work programme and of great relevance in the development and implementation of a work programme for the Territories. All these activities become more focused and purposeful in the context of working together with the administering Power and the representatives of the specific Territories in developing and implementing programmes of work for their decolonization.

As we move along our discussions regarding Tokelau, we are breaking new ground and adapting our generic work programme to the Territory's specific circumstances. The objectives of the Declaration and the Plan of Action of the Second International Decade guide us and translate into practical measures that are intended to make the whole process transparent, with clear goals, activities and target dates. It is an exciting and challenging chapter for the work of the Committee and we only hope it will serve as an example and encouragement for the other Territories that are next in line.

Before concluding, I should also like to refer to the presence in our Seminar of new participants — especially those from Pitcairn and St. Helena. We are aware of the difficulties involved in your coming here and we appreciate the effort you have made and are looking forward to hearing your presentations regarding your Territories. And to all of those of you who are well known to us, we also express our appreciation and gratitude for the valuable information you bring to our Committee and for your perseverance and commitment to the cause of decolonization.

Appendix V

Message from the Secretary-General

On the occasion of the Week of Solidarity with the Peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories, I am pleased to send my greetings to all who have gathered in Nadi, Fiji, for the Pacific Regional Seminar on decolonization.

Next week we shall witness a joyous event in the history of decolonization, when East Timor joins the ranks of sovereign States. Since the adoption in 1960 of the historic Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, more than 80 million people have achieved self-government through independence, integration or free association. Nonetheless, 16 Non-Self-Governing Territories remain and our efforts should continue to ensure that the Declaration is implemented. Seminars such as this one organized by the Special Committee offer the more than 2 million people who live in the Non-Self-Governing Territories a chance to make their views known on the unique problems they face.

In recent years, the Committee has found new and creative ways to engage the administering Powers in a dialogue on the future of the Territories. It has called for programmes of work to be established on a case-by-case basis so that each Territory can freely determine its status and strive towards political, social and economic development. I urge all the administering Powers to seize this opportunity, in full consultation with the Peoples of the Territories, to find appropriate arrangements for the future in accordance with all relevant General Assembly resolutions.

There should be no room for colonialism in the twenty-first century. I encourage you to do your utmost to close this chapter of history once and for all. In that spirit, I would like to thank the Government of Fiji for its generosity in hosting this event and wish you all a successful seminar.

Appendix VI

Resolution on expression of appreciation to the Government and people of Fiji

The participants in the Pacific Regional Seminar,

Having met from 14 to 16 May 2002 at Nadi, Fiji, for the purpose of assessing the situation in the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and, in particular, the review of the pressing questions relating to the work programme of the Special Committee for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism,

Having heard the important statement by the Honourable Kaliopate Tavola, Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Fiji,

Express their profound gratitude to the Government and people of Fiji for providing the Special Committee with the necessary facilities for its seminar, for the outstanding contribution they have made to the success of the seminar and, in particular, for the very generous and kind hospitality and the warm and cordial reception accorded to the participants throughout their stay in Fiji.